

19 October 2022

Brent Melville
Senior Journalist, BusinessDesk
fyi-request-20585-ac93abec@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Brent

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), dated 16 September 2022, to the Minister of Housing, the Hon Megan Woods, for the following information:

“In the capacity of Minister of Building and Construction, Minister of Housing, Can you please forward me all email correspondence between Kainga Ora, and the taskforce, in respect of decisions to purchase/support the certification of alternative imported plasterboard products. With particular reference to correspondence in respect of Branz or Codemark certification of the Gypmantech product.”

Under section 14 of the Act, on 20 September 2022 your request was transferred to Kāinga Ora for response.

Following a search of Kāinga Ora records, it was established there is no correspondence in scope of your request. Therefore, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document(s) alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

As a major player in the New Zealand construction sector, Kāinga Ora has a part to play in working to reduce the impact of the plasterboard supply shortage. Following a review of the national plasterboard shortage in April and May 2022, Kāinga Ora agreed to support testing of Gypmantech plasterboard through a New Zealand importer. This was prior to the Ministerial plasterboard taskforce being established in June 2022.

The testing at Crown Research Institute Scion, in Rotorua, is being undertaken to ensure that moisture and bracing standards are met by this plasterboard. If successful, this will allow Gypmantech to be added to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment’s list of acceptable plasterboard solutions.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Contact details for the Ombudsman can be found at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly
Manager, Government Relations