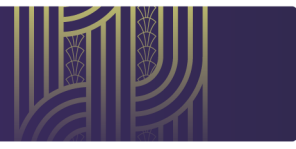


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OIA#2943

Anna Wilson  
fyi-request-27143-480e0336@requests.fyi.org.nz

5 August 2024

Tēnā koe Anna

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 25 June 2024, and further refined on 26 June 2024, to the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha (the Ministry), requesting correspondence relating to flexible funding.

*1) All correspondence between Brian Coffey and Minister Simmonds' office (including Minister Simmonds, political staff, and seconded private secretaries) for the time period 01 February to 01 May*

As advised previously, Brian became a Private Secretary in the office of the Minister for Disability Issues on 5 February 2024, therefore we have only conducted a search of emails for the time period 1 – 4 February 2024.

No relevant text messages or emails were found in scope of your request as Brian did not correspond with Hon Simmonds' office about flexible funding during this period.

*2) All correspondence between Emma Williams and Minister Simmonds' office (including Minister Simmonds, political staff, and seconded private secretaries), for the time period 01 February to 01 May*

Please refer to the attached Appendix for emails relating to flexible funding between Emma and Minister Simmonds' office, during the period 1 February 2024 – 1 May 2024.

Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

- 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

Information that is not within the scope of your request has been marked and redacted accordingly.



Emma is the manager of the Ministerial and Executive Services Team (MaES). She is often passed requests from the Minister's office where they are seeking to advice about how to respond letters sent to the Minister by members of the general public. To protect the privacy of natural persons, I have withheld emails about correspondence from the general public, under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA.

I have also withheld email threads where the Ministry provides advice about how to answer Oral Parliamentary Questions. The Minister's responses to these questions are publicly available on the parliament.govt.nz website.

The draft document attached to Brian's email dated 18 April 2024 is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

Where relevant, attachments to emails have been included, except in circumstances where the final document is publicly available. The following publicly available documents are referenced in the Appendix:

- [REP/WHK/24/2/018 Changes to Equipment and Modification](#)
- [Memorandum to Minister: Update on implementing changes to EMS and flexible funding to manage Whaikaha expenditure](#)

If you wish to discuss this response with us, or if you are seeking any further information, please contact [OIA\\_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Hayley Evans  
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Services