



14 August 2024

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James
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Dear James

Official Information Act request OIA2425-0066

I refer to your request for information dated 1 July 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Justice. You requested the following information:

On the 17/06/2023 the Minister of Justice at the time, Kiri Allan attended the Wahine Māori Leaders in Law Firms Conference, between 14:00 and 17:00. Please provide all texts, emails, letters, invitations, reservations, and any other correspondence relating to this event and Allan's attendance.

On 19 July 2024, the Ministry of Justice transferred part of your request, relating to the emails of a former Minister, to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) for decision and response.

Response to your request

By way of background, former Prime Ministers and/or former Ministers of the Crown are not subject to the Act, but records from their time as a Minister are in scope of the legislation. For the purpose of the Act, the ¹Department is deemed to be the agency that holds the records of former Ministers during their time as Ministers of the Crown.

While the Department is deemed to hold former Ministers information, we do not have direct access to it. In order to locate and retrieve former Minister's information we are required to request that the Parliamentary Service search the parliamentary server on our behalf.

¹ Please note, the Department provides record keeping advice to Ministers and their staff. However, decisions about what information is kept and stored remains the responsibility of the individual Minister with support from their office.

When commissioning a search of such records on the parliamentary server the Department provides Parliamentary Service with specific key words, dates or topics, and names of individuals, to help condense its search to produce the most accurate and manageable output.

For your request, the Department used the following search parameters:

- *Time period - 7 March 2023 – 17 June 2023*
- *Individuals - Kiri Allan*
- *Key words – ‘Wahine Māori Leaders in Law Firms Conference’*

I can advise that the Parliamentary Service have completed their search and have not identified any results in scope of the above. Therefore, your request is refused under Section 18(e) of the Act because the information does not exist or cannot be found.

I note that the Ministry of Justice have provided a separate response in which they have released information they have identified relating to your request.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information on how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden

General Manager – Ministerial Services

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs