

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change
Minister of Revenue



08 August 2024

John Luke
By email: fyi-request-27600-0944e513@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear John,

Thank you for your email on 13 July in which you sent the following request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

"All correspondence with Stefan Sunde (Sunde is a member of the National party board of directors) all correspondence mentioning Stefan Sunde or "Stefan"

Plus, all correspondence about EY (Ernst & Young or Ernst and Young) including:

any mention of their 'scandal'

'Secret drinking club'

'PR nightmare'

'Sexual harassment'"

I have addressed each part of your request below.

In relation to the first part of your request for correspondence with or about Mr Sunde, on 15 July my office asked you to clarify the part of the request relating to all mentions of "Stefan", and if you meant this only to refer to Mr Sunde (even when his full name was not used) or to any mention of that name even for individuals who are not Mr Sunde, noting that if it was the latter it may require substantial collation from my office. As I did not receive clarification, I am interpreting this as the former.

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held. I have not had any correspondence with or about Mr Sunde, including where only his first name is used.

In relation to part 2 of your request, I am releasing two items of correspondence to you, which comprise my correspondence about and to Ernst & Young (EY). Both items exclusively relate to invitations to events and meetings to me and other Ministers, and none relate to Mr Sunde (as addressed in my response to part one of your request).

I note you also asked specifically for correspondence mentioning four specific terms cited in your request, I can confirm that none of the attached items of correspondence about or with EY contain any of these terms.

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| 1 | Correspondence between EY and others, Hon Watts CCd, relating to an invitation to meet with Hon Watts and others. (05/12/2023-10/06/2024) | Released in Part with some information withheld under (9(2)(a) |
| 2 | Correspondence between Ministerial Advisor and Senior Private Secretary to Hon Watts and Hon Watts relating to an event invitation from EY (28/01/2024) | Released in Part with some information withheld under (9(2)(a) |

Apart from some redactions under 9(2)(a) of the OIA for privacy reasons, both of these documents have been released to you in full.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman by contacting www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Watts'.

Hon Simon Watts
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