



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

5 November 2024

Ministerial Services
45 Pipitea St, Thorndon
PO Box 805, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Phone +64 4 495 7200
[Website: www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Amanda Murtagh
[fyi-request-28641-
e2a3a9cd@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28641-e2a3a9cd@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Amanda

Official Information Act request (2425-0352)

Thank you for your request for information dated 3 October 2024 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Christopher Luxon. Your request was subsequently partially transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) on 11 October 2024 for response. You requested the following information:

- 1. Please provide all notes and correspondence including calls, texts, emails, and documentation including communications between other Ministers and Government agencies and instruments of the Crown, from 2 May 2024 to date, regarding the decision of your Office, that it will not consider the proposal for a Transparent Democracy system, submitted 2 May 2024 by Stars Flight Limited.*
- 2. Please provide all notes and correspondence including calls, texts, emails, and documentation including communications between other Ministers and Government agencies and instruments of the Crown, from 1 August 2021 to date, regarding the decision of the previous Prime Minister's Office regarding a proposal for New Zealand regarding the Transparent Democracy system, submitted 1 August 2021 by Stars Flight Limited.*

The Department is responding to part two of your request as the Department is deemed to be the agency that holds the records of former Ministers during their time as Ministers of the Crown.

Response to your request

For your request the Department commissioned Parliamentary Service¹ to undertake a search of the records for the Rt Hon Dame Jacinda Ardern and the Rt Hon Chris Hipkins during their time as Ministers of the Crown. The following search parameters were used:

- Time period – 1 August 2021 to 27 November 2023
- Individuals – Rt Hon Dame Jacinda Ardern and Rt Hon Chris Hipkins
- Key words – Stars Flight Limited

The search for electronic records on the parliamentary server captures relevant information saved by the Ministers or their staff. The information can include emails, written correspondence, text messages and social media posts.

Please find attached **Appendix A** all the documents that were identified within scope of your request. Some of the information in these documents is unrelated to your request and has been marked as 'out of scope' other information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Furthermore, the attachments in 'Email Chain 1' and 'Email Chain 3' are not included as they are the emails and attachments that Stars Flight Limited sent to the former Prime Minister, and therefore you will already hold this information.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered where necessary whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9(2) as set out in this response letter are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

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

¹ Although the Department is deemed to hold the information relating to former Ministers, we do not have the ability to perform searches on the parliamentary server (where the electronic records are held). We commission Parliamentary Service (IT) to run the required searches on our behalf.