

# Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General  
Minister of Defence  
Minister for Digitising Government  
Minister Responsible for the GCSB  
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS  
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology  
Minister for Space



Ref: JCOIA-228

Dear Veronika,

Thank you for your email of 14 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1) *Any correspondence and communications between your office, MBIE and any members (including the chair) of SSAG*
- 2) *Final SSAG report - phase 1*
- 3) *Executive summary and recommendations of SSAG report - phase 1*
- 4) *MBIE's response to the SSAG report, dated 7 August 2024*
- 5) *Cabinet paper regarding the SSAG report, all drafts and final version.*

## **Regarding parts 2-5 of your request**

As you may be aware that the PM's office has recently confirmed that announcements on the review will be made in the new year:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/536111/review-of-science-sector-role-of-prime-minister-s-chief-science-advisor-won-t-be-announced-until-next-year>

As MBIE plans to publish the items you seek under sections 2-5 of your request after an announcement is made, this information will be withheld until that time under section 18(d) of the Act. MBIE will reach out to you to provide you links to this information at that time.

## **Regarding part 1 of your request**

I understand that you discussed part 1 of your request with Richard Walley from MBIE on 9 December 2024. I am aware that you are specifically looking for information relating to the delays to the release of the SSAG report and the announcement of the government response.

Given the extremely large numbers of emails and other communications captured by your initial request, we will be able to respond to part one of your request in a more timely manner if you agree to an initial scope of:

*"emails between your office, MBIE, and any members of the SSAG concerning delays in the response to or release of the SSAG's report".*

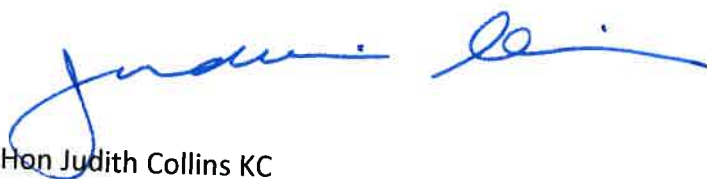
This new scope of part 1 will enable a prompter search and response. You can then decide whether, and how, to seek further information if you desire.

I'd be grateful if you could reply to this letter confirming that you are comfortable with this new scope of part 1 of your request on the basis described above by Friday 20 December 2024.

Please note, any clarification or amendment of a request is considered to be a new request for the purpose of calculating the maximum statutory timeframe for response—see section 15(1AA) of the Official Information Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Judith Collins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Judith Collins KC

**Minister of Science, Innovation & Technology**