

# Hon Chris Penk

Minister for Building and Construction  
Minister for Land Information  
Minister for Veterans  
Associate Minister of Defence  
Associate Minister of Immigration



7 February 2025

OIA24-193

Clendon D

[fyi-request-29599-de6a4703@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-29599-de6a4703@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Clendon,

I refer to your Official Information Act (OIA, the Act) request dated 18 December 2024. You requested:

*“Can I have the submission the Minister received regarding the name change of Petone? Information regarding other name changes is out of scope.*

- 1. I am specifically interested in a copy of the document returned from the Ministers office to LINZ (or other relevant agency). To clarify, I want the document that recorded his decision, not a blank copy of the document prior to being sent to his office.*
- 2. I am also interested in any follow up questions from the Minister and his private secretaries to LINZ or other agencies in the two months prior to this decision being made. This should include any form of communication including verbal.*
- 3. I also request the reasoning the Minister has used to reject this decision.”*

In relation to Part 1, see attached alongside this letter a signed copy of the briefing I received from Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) regarding the name change of Petone, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees of any public service agency from improper pressure or harassment.

Regarding Part 2 of your request, to the best of my recollection, I have not had any further discussions relating to this matter with my LINZ official or any other agencies in the two months before I made this decision, whether written or verbal. As such, I have decided to refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Regarding Part 3, there are a range of factors I consider when making decisions on name change proposals such as the history of the name, removing ambiguity of a generic place name and minimising disruptions for relatively minor changes. People feel strongly about the name of their home and each proposal receives a range of submissions both for and against. I weigh all factors carefully and, recognise there will always be a range of views on these matters.

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You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Ngā mihi nui,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'C. Penk'.

Hon Chris Penk  
**Minister for Land Information**