



16 AUG 2016

Jason Brown  
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Reference: OIA1617FY0036

Dear Jason Brown

**Official Information Act Request Relating to Policy Advice on Foreign Trusts**

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 21 July 2016 which asked for "digital copies of contemporary and historic policy and other advice given to current and former Prime Ministers on the foreign trust regime of New Zealand."

The only information identified as being relevant to your request are briefings provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to the current Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, in order to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to "maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials."
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to "maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty."

No public interest in releasing the information that has been withheld has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email ([info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

Anneliese Parkin  
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy