

Gael Wright

Via email: fyi-request-6101-14614998@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1718-003

12 July 2017

Dear Ms Wright

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2017 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information on the Marsden Fund:

“All minutes of all Grant Assessment Committee meetings for the last 5 years. There should be no redaction of identities as these are minutes of meetings of an official public body. All scores of all grant applications for the last 5 years.

This should include scores at each stage of the assessment (including, panel scoring at each stage (by individual if possible) and reviewer scores) and final outcome. While it is appreciated that reviewer identities might want to be protected it would be preferable if all applicant information and committee member information is provided (for the purposes of statistical analysis). Certainly panelist identities should be provided as they are acting as public servants.

In particular, we refer MBIE to Section 6 of the Official Information Act ‘...information shall be made available unless there is good reason for withholding it’ and we see no “good reason” for any of this information to be withheld from public scrutiny.”

The Ministry has undertaken a preliminary review of your request and has estimated that it includes: 110 sets of minutes from Grant Assessment Committee meetings; 115,920 individual assessment scores across 6,900 proposals; and 3300 referee reports for full proposals. Your request therefore covers approximately 119,330 pieces of unique information.

The Ministry has determined that the volume of information you have requested cannot be made available without substantial collation. It is therefore likely that the Ministry will refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. In the Ministry’s view, fixing a charge under section 15 or extending the time limit under section 15A would not enable your request to be granted.





However, before making this decision, the Ministry invites you to consider significantly narrowing the scope of your request in a manner that may enable the Ministry to provide you with an acceptable response.

We would also appreciate it if you would provide us with your contact information, so that we can discuss the scope directly with you as this may assist in a timely response. You can submit this to the Ministry Official Information Act email address at oiia@mbie.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Sillars
Manager, Specialised Investments
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

