

Rt Hon Winston Peters



Deputy Prime Minister

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing

06 DEC 2017

Roger Stratford

fyi-request-6823-37a027d1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Official information request for Rt. Hon Winston Peters' postelection negotiation communications

Dear Mr Stratford

I refer to your official information request dated 10 November 2017, requesting the following:

I therefore make this request to you now to release a transcript of all verbal and written communications between yourself in particular and the major players you were negotiating with, including, but not limited to, the leaders of the NZ Labour and National Parties. The scope of this should include outlaying strategies and ongoing position alterations that compelled the NZ First Board to favour so decisively, one outcome over the other, which we all accept has led to the swearing in of the new Government Treasury benches under Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern.

My office has decided to refuse your request under section 2(a)(ii) of the Official Information Act. The act defines official information as being information held by a *Minister of the Crown in his official capacity*. The communications that you have outlined were conducted in my capacity as Leader of New Zealand First, not as Deputy Prime Minister, and are therefore not applicable to the criteria of the Act.

I refute your allegation that I entered post election negotiations in 2016, as contained in paragraph two of your official information request.

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, or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Rt. Hon Winston Peters
Deputy Prime Minister