

# Rt Hon Winston Peters

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**Deputy Prime Minister**

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Minister for Racing

26 FEB 2018

Alex Harris

fyi-request-7194-b8738f82@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Thank you for your email of 30 January 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*All advice (including, but not limited to, briefings, memos, cabinet and cabinet committee papers, and memories of advice given orally) on the decision to fund an all-weather horse-racing track. I'm particularly interested in the business case for it.*

An all-weather race track would be an important step in helping provide certainty and consistency of racing in New Zealand. While such a track has been flagged as a Government priority, decisions as to its funding are subject to this year's Government budget process.

At this time, no decisions have been made on the proposed all-weather horse racing track, and no Cabinet or Cabinet Committee papers have been put forward. Accordingly, your request for information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

For completeness, it is noted that this office has received a number of papers, including briefings and status updates, associated with the proposed all-weather race track. These do not fall within the scope of your request as it is worded. However, were such papers to be considered for release under the Act, it is likely that they would be withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), on the basis that they contain information supporting decisions that are yet to be taken by Ministers.

If you are dissatisfied with my decision on your request for information, you have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Winston Peters', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Minister for Racing