



MP for Mana

Minister of Civil Defence

Associate Minister of Immigration

Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

27 MAR 2018

Ryan S
fyi-request-7366-d58a9a46@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: KF OIA 18-006

Dear Ryan S

Official Information Act request for weekly briefings received for past three weeks

I refer to your Official Information Act request received on 3 March 2018 which asked:

"Could you please provide the weekly briefings you have received for your portfolios for the past 3 weeks (Civil Defense[sic], Commerce consumer affairs, Associate Immigration)."

We have interpreted the part of your request relating to Civil Defence to be for the three weekly briefings provided to me as Minister of Civil Defence from the Ministry of Civil Defence & Emergency Management (MCDEM) prior to 3 March 2018 (when your request was received).

I am regularly briefed by officials on matters relating to my portfolio as Minister of Civil Defence. This includes a regular briefing from MCDEM titled 'Report to the Minister of Civil Defence' which I typically receive on a weekly basis.

I can confirm that I received a 'Report to the Minister of Civil Defence' from MCDEM on 15 February 2018, 22 February 2018 and 1 March 2018. These weekly briefings were conveyed under time pressure and as they are very recent, they concern matters that are under active consideration. Accordingly, I am withholding these briefings in full under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:

- 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."

I am advised that this position is in line with the Ombudsman's recently published guidance relating to Ministerial briefings and views expressed by previous Ombudsmen that such weekly briefings are confidential at the time they are produced.

Where the information has been withheld, 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) 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi', written in a cursive style.

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Civil Defence