



Reference: OIA-2017/18-0416

5 April 2018

A Chela  
fyi-request-7448-e1621861@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear A Chela

**Official Information Act request relating to Child Poverty Reduction: second level BIMs**

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 14 March 2018. You requested:

*copies of any second level BIMs on child poverty reduction that have been received.*

I have interpreted your request to be for a Briefing for the Incoming Minister (BIM) specifically on child poverty reduction, prepared by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). DPMC is only in a position to respond in relation to information held by DPMC that is relevant to your request.

I can confirm that Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern was not provided a portfolio Briefing for the Incoming Minister in her capacity as the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction. Accordingly, your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis *"that the document alleged to contain the information does not exist..."*

Given your request relates to information and advice provided to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, you might like to know that DPMC has published a suite of documents that formed the basis of decisions on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill. This includes:

- advice from officials that was submitted to the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction by DPMC;
- Cabinet Committee papers from the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and associated minutes.

These documents relate to the purpose, content and consultation on the Bill, in the period leading up to the Bill's introduction into the House. The documents are available from the following link:

<https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/publications/child-poverty-reduction-bill-documents>

Further, outlined below are links to press releases from the Beehive website on child poverty reduction, and a link to the Child Poverty Reduction Bill on the Parliament website (this includes a link to the Bill itself and information on how to make a submission to the Select Committee):

30 January 2018 "Taking action to reduce child poverty"

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/taking-action-reduce-child-poverty>

31 January 2018 "Historic commitment to reduce child poverty"

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/historic-commitment-reduce-child-poverty>

<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/historic-commitment-reduce-child-poverty>

DPMC's Policy Advisory Group has also provided the Prime Minister with briefings on matters in relation to child poverty, including in the early weeks of the new Government. Briefings from the Policy Advisory Group are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, in order to support her in her role as leader of the Government and Chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety (including their titles) under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(ii) as withholding the information is necessary to "*maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility.*"
- 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.*"

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

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Anneliese Parkin  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Policy**