

Dr R C Dahiya and Savitri  
[Fyi-request-7630-175faf3s@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-7630-175faf3s@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Dr Dahiya

**Official Information Act 1982 request**

Thank you for your email of 16 April 2018 through the FYI website regarding a solicitor's conduct. Under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), you have asked the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) to help you access information held by the solicitor.

I understand from your letter that you have had some difficulty contacting the solicitor, Ms Nicole Copeland. While the Ministry has no role in requiring lawyers to respond to queries and requests, the information provided below may assist you.

You mention lodging a complaint about a solicitor. You can do so through the New Zealand Law Society's Lawyers Complaints Service. Information on the process is available on the Law Society website at [www.lawsociety.org.nz](http://www.lawsociety.org.nz). Alternatively, you can contact the Lawyers Complaints Service by emailing [complaints@lawsociety.org.nz](mailto:complaints@lawsociety.org.nz).

You have requested Ms Copeland provide you with documents relating to your case in the Immigration and Protection Tribunal (IPT) and subsequent appeals to higher courts. For your information, you can apply to the IPT and the courts in writing for access to your tribunal and court files. The Tribunal and courts are excluded from the OIA under section 2(6)(a) and your application for access to files would be decided by a judicial officer. There may be a cost involved. The form to make a court record search can be found on our website here: <https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Forms/201712-application-for-access-to-court-documents.pdf>

For completeness I note, the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry of Justice. Therefore, I am declining your request under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA as there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation, or local authority.

If you require any clarification of the information contained in this response please contact Antony Paltridge, Team Leader, Media and External Relations, by calling (04) 918 8980; or emailing [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz)

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Thank you for taking the time to write. I trust that this information assists.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon  
Group Manager, Courts and Tribunals, Regional Service Delivery

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