

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway



MP for Palmerston North

Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety Deputy Leader of the House

Minister of Immigration

Minister for ACC

04 JUL 2018

Matthew Hooten

fyi-request-7997-81ca9292@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your official information request dated 6 June 2018 which requested:

“On Morning Report today, the Prime Minister said you have been approached by employers wanting Fair Pay Agreements in their sectors. Under the OIA, how many such representations have been made to you and when, what was the detail of these representations and who were the employers?”

In the course of my duties I have met with many representatives from the business community who have expressed interest in Fair Pay Agreements.

During meetings with me in February 2018, Countdown, First Security and the Bus and Coach Association of New Zealand indicated their support for a Fair Pay Agreement in their sector. These meetings broadly discussed how Fair Pay Agreements would benefit employers by ensuring that they are not disadvantaged by providing employees with fair pay and conditions.

The aim of Fair Pay Agreements is to prevent a race to the bottom, where some employers are undercut by others who reduce costs through low wages and poor conditions of employment. Workers and employers know their sector best. By working together through effective engagement and bargaining cooperatively, workers and employers can set standards that are relevant to their sector and support productivity and growth.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my response to your request. The relevant contact details are as follows:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
WELLINGTON 6143
Ph 0800 802 602
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Iain Lees-Galloway'.

Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety