

13 June 2019

David Lawson
silvertuatarah@hotmai.com



Dear David

Your Official Information Act request, reference: 0052122

We received your request of 13 June 2018 through fyi.org.nz, asking for information in relation to “to research (and the publishers' credentials) referenced in ACC's Strategy for the Future Management of Long-term claims 16 Feb 2009”. I understand you were not happy with our decision to refuse part of the information you requested under section 18(h) of the Official Information Act (the Act) and subsequently made a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman.

The Office of the Ombudsman wrote to ACC asking if we can resolve the complaint without the need of an investigation, for example by releasing the information. I have revisited our decision to refuse part of your request for information and have determined to release most of the information in this instance.

Update on your Official Information Act request

Your original request asked for the following:

3. *confirm whether Fiona Knight and Fiona Conlon, are one in the same person, or whether they are separate people.*
4. *whether Fiona Knight/Fiona Conlon, were employed within ACC as full time employees when they published the above research referred to and requested under the OIA, or whether ACC engaged an external consultant for this research published by Fiona Knight/Fiona Conlon.*
5. *[...] what their job positions were at the time of publishing the research that I have requested, and previous job positions that they currently hold, and had previously held within ACC.*
6. *[...] what qualifications and experience she, and or they, as the case may be held prior to publishing the two articles that I am requesting copies of under the OIA 1982.*
8. *[...] which consultancy firm/s that they worked for at the time that each research article was published.*

We are providing some, but not all, of the information you asked for

Our records show that Fiona Conlon was a permanent fulltime employee of ACC between 2008 and 2015. At the time of the research you refer to, she was employed as a *Researcher - Evidence Based Health*. Fiona Knight was an independent contractor with ACC during 2004. She was contracted as a *Senior Advisor and Ministerial Advisor*.

Part of the information you requested related to the qualifications and previous experience of these former staff members of ACC. We have made the decision to decline your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Act as there is a need to protect the privacy of natural persons. ACC has carefully considered whether there are reasons why it is desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available. ACC is of the view that maintaining the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in making the information available.

If you have any questions

You can contact me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz. Or if you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emma Coats', is located below the 'Yours sincerely' text. The signature is stylized and somewhat abstract.

Emma Coats
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support