



1 July 2013

Alex Harris

By email: fyi-request-867-a8c29746@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Harris

Information Request regarding Families Commissioner's appointment
Our ref: SSCOIA 06/13/04

I refer to your e-mail of 13 May requesting:

"any communications or advice on the compatibility of Rankin's political activities with her role as a state servant. In particular I am interested in whether Rankin informed SSC of her intention to take up these positions, and any advice SSC gave her or the Minister of Social Development about managing the conflict of interest."

Please accept our apologies for the delay in replying. SSC has no documentary advice on this matter however on 10 May 2013 SSC's view was sought by officials of the Ministry of Social Development in discussion concerning the appointment of Ms Rankin as CEO of the Conservative Party while undertaking her role as a Families Commissioner.

The State Services Commission's expressed view was that there was a conflict and that it was not one that was manageable. This view was communicated in discussion with Ministry officials on the same day. The State Services Commission did not provide advice directly to the Minister for Social Development.

Ms Rankin did not inform the State Services Commission of her intention to take up the role of CEO of the Conservative Party, nor of her membership of the Board of the Conservative Party, and the State Services Commission did not provide advice to her on this matter. I understand that Ms Rankin is no longer a member of the Families Commission.

If you have any concerns about our response to your request, you are entitled to complain to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman can be contacted at:

The Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Freephone 0800 802 602
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Lloyd'.

Christine Lloyd
Senior Advisor, Integrity