



## Office of Hon Paula Bennett

MP for Waitakere  
Minister for Social Development  
Associate Minister of Housing

25 JUL 2013

Ms Alex Harris  
[fyi-request-868-ad59e538@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-868-ad59e538@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Harris

Thank you for your email of 21 June 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*"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 the Minister of her intention to take up these positions, and any advice the Minister gave her or SSC about managing the conflict of interest."*

I can advise that, apart from when Ms Rankin was first appointed a member of the Families Commission in 2009, I have not received any written advice concerning any conflicts of interest that she may, or may not, have.

I am aware that Ministry officials had discussions with the State Services Commission in the week ending 10 May 2013 concerning Ms Rankin's appointment as Chief Executive of the Conservative Party. Those discussions took place at a time when I was in the process of replacing Ms Rankin as a member of the Families Commission.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Hon Paula Bennett  
Minister for Social Development