



26 March 2019

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Tēnā koe

Official Information request, reference OIA 18/19-0589

Thank you for your request of 26 March 2019 for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1) *Work programme to support local government funding reform, 8 February 2019;*
- 2) *Local Governance for Community Wellbeing – Strategy and Mechanics, 8 February 2019; and*
- 3) *Local Elections projects in the context of the wider Local Government Work Programme: Options for discussion, 12 February 2019.*

Please find attached the copies of the briefings requested. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence and where making the available information would likely prejudice the supply of similar information;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to protect information and advice that is under active consideration; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

The majority of information in the document *Local Elections projects in the context of the wider Local Government Work Programme Options for discussion*, including the Appendix has been withheld under Section 9(2)(f)(iv), as substantively it contains advice given to the Minister of Local Government from officials which is still under active consideration. Please also note the typographical error in date on the briefing *Local programme to support local government funding reform*, the correct date should be 8 February 2019.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding this information are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO box 101252, Wellington, Alternatively, or can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Cath Anyan
Acting Director Operational Services