

Ref: DOIA 19-219

Ali Cornwell

By email: fyi-request-9995-5ab6cb7f@requests.fyi.org.nz

29 April 2019

Dear Ali

Thank you for your official information request sent to Ōtākaro Limited on 3 April 2019 and transferred to Land Information New Zealand (**LINZ**) on 4 April 2019, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (**the Act**):

all documents (including any correspondence and internal file notes or internally prepared documents) concerning the proposed acquisition of the site at 128-132 Armagh Street, Christchurch (the former PSIS building).

You have indicated that the reason for your request is because:

notice has been given under s54 of the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Act 2011 that the Minister for Canterbury Earthquake Recovery proposes to take the land at the site for the implementation of the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan and it is intended to use the land for the purposes of part of the Performing Arts Precinct.

We have considered the information that LINZ holds concerning the proposed acquisition, and we have decided to refuse this request under section 18(a) of the Act, as there is good reason for withholding the information under section 9, and under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information we otherwise hold is publicly available.

Reasons for withholding

The Crown has not yet acquired this land, and withholding the information is necessary under section 9(2)(j) to enable the Crown to carry out negotiations without prejudice or disadvantage, and under section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.

It is also necessary to withhold information under section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, including the current owners of the property, and under section 9(2)(b)(ii), as making the information available would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the current owners, or of the person who supplied the information we hold.

Therefore, in accordance with section 18(a) of the Act, I am of the opinion that good reason exists for the withholding of this information, and am satisfied that

there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the withheld information available.

Otherwise, the information we hold reflects the fact of the Crown's intention to acquire the site, which, as your request notes, is designated for the purposes of the Performing Arts Precinct under the Christchurch Central Recovery Plan. This is public information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact media@linz.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Barr

Group Manager Land and Property (Christchurch)