



4 December 2023

T. Smith

By email: fyi-request-24721-e51c6bae@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe T. Smith

**Official information request for communications of James Kierstead**

I refer to your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 12 November 2023:

*“Please provide all communications between James Kierstead and:*

- the Tax Payers Union (TPU) and any persons employed by the TPU,*
- the Free Speech Union (FSU) and any persons employed by the FSU;*
- the ACT Party (ACT) and any persons employed by ACT; and*
- the NZ Initiative (NZI) and any persons employed or volunteering with the NZI.*

*Although I am largely interested in any emails from Dr. Kierstead's university-hosted email address, if he has a university-provided personal device I am also interested in any other forms of communications between himself and the above list of organisations and people.*

*To assist with the the inquiry, and to reduce the workload associated with the request, I am only interested in any emails (or other communication) that have occurred within the last 12 months.”*

Under the University's [Acceptable Use of Information Systems Statute](#), limited personal activities are permitted on University information systems. Any communications Dr Kierstead has had with the above named organisations were done so in his personal capacity. As the information is not held in relation to his employment as member of the academic staff of the university; or an officer or employee of the university, this information is not considered to be official information held by the University.

As such, your request is refused in accordance with s18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the University and there are no grounds for believing that the information is held by another agency that is subject to the Act.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the decisions made regarding this request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact me at [oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:oiarequests@vuw.ac.nz).

Ngā mihi nui

Blair Doherty  
Senior Advisor, Official Information and Privacy  
Legal Services  
**Te Herenga Waka—Victoria University of Wellington**