



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister
Minister of Tourism

Ministerial Services
Minister in Charge of the
NZ Security Intelligence Service
Minister Responsible for the GCSB

26 AUG 2013

Alex Harris
Email: fyi-request-1035-b4eea1c5@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Official Information Act Request for Email Headers for Email Correspondence for the Minister Responsible for the Government Communications Security Bureau

I refer to your request of 29 July 2013 for "all ... [the Minister Responsible for the GCSB's] ... email headers for the last month."

There are several email addresses that potentially could be used by correspondents contacting the Rt Hon John Key in his capacity as Minister Responsible for the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB).

The total of emails received from these email accounts over the period 1 to 30 July 2013 was over 14,000 and the total emails sent from these email accounts over the same period was 9,664. These totals exclude emails received that were identified, when received, as part of an email campaign.

These emails will have been sent to Rt Hon John Key in a number of capacities, including his Ministerial roles, as a Member of Parliament as well as Leader of the Parliamentary National Party.

Given the very high volume of email correspondence potentially relevant to your request, to identify which emails that were received or sent as Minister Responsible for the GCSB, then assess the information requested, make any necessary redactions, consult with individuals as needed, collate and copy that information into the format you have requested after making any necessary redactions would involve substantial collation and research.

Accordingly, your request is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act "*that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*" In reaching this decision, I first considered the factors contained in sections 18A(1) and 18B of the Official Information Act. However, I did not consider that taking any of these steps would allow the request to be answered.

It should also be noted that, when members of the general public write to a Minister of the Crown, it is reasonable for them to expect that they are writing to that Minister in confidence and that their correspondence would not be made available to third parties on request. The information you have requested would potentially include information such as names, contact details and subject details. It is in the wider public interest that members of the public are able to write to Ministers and raise issues relevant to that Minister's portfolio responsibilities. Accordingly, even if it were possible to identify the information you were

requesting, it is likely that much of the information on email correspondence headers to or from the general public would be withheld.

If you would like to narrow your request perhaps by both time and to a specific subject area, we may be in a better position to respond.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff