

# Hon Grant Robertson

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MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage



- 5 AUG 2019

Matthew Hooton  
fyi-request-10506-b0eaadec@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Matthew

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 24 June 2019. You requested:

*Meeting held in the office of the Minister of Finance around 7pm on Tuesday 28 May.*

- 1. Names and job titles of all attendees*
- 2. All documents considered at the meeting*
- 3. All notes taken or marks made on the documents referred to in 2 above*
- 4. Why no decision was taken at the meeting to immediately release market-sensitive parts of the Budget*

As you are aware, on 22 July 2019 I extended the timeframe for making a decision on your request by 10 working days.

The following people were present at the meeting held in the office of the Minister of Finance around 7pm on Tuesday 28 May:

- Hon Grant Robertson, Minister of Finance
- Gabriel Makhoulf, Secretary to the Treasury
- Craig Renney, Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Grant Robertson
- Chris Bramwell, Senior Press Secretary to Hon Grant Robertson
- Alex Tarrant, Senior Press Secretary to Hon Grant Robertson
- Charlie McLean, Private Secretary (Advisory) to Hon Grant Robertson
- Talei Pasikale, Economic Advisor to Hon Grant Robertson

The above were joined part-way through the meeting by Raj Nahna, Deputy Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister, and Andrew Campbell, Chief Press Secretary to the Prime Minister.

The *Investigation into the actions and statements of Mr Makhoulf* released on 27 June 2019 includes some information relevant to the request. You can access the investigation report from the State Services Commission website: [www.ssc.govt.nz](http://www.ssc.govt.nz).

Although the information contained in the investigation report is now publicly available, the additional information you have requested is within the scope of the wider inquiry still under way. This additional information is likely to form part of the information

considered by the State Services Commission through its inquiry into the unauthorised release of Budget information, which is being carried out under the State Sector Act.

Release of the information at this point, before the inquiry has reported, would be likely to prejudice its ability to carry out the inquiry. This includes prejudicing its ability to make non-publication orders in relation to evidence provided to it.

Therefore, I am withholding the information relating to point 2 of your request under section 6(c) of the Official Information Act – the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law.

I am withholding notes taken at the meeting under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank expression of opinions.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.

The information that had been released at that point was not market sensitive. Given that the Budget would be released in two days' time, no decision was taken at the meeting to immediately release market-sensitive information.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Hon Grant Robertson  
**Minister of Finance**