



31 October 2019

James Caine
fyi-request-11308-0024bf30@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Caine

Official Information Request
Our Ref: SSOIA 2019-0244

I refer to your official information request which was transferred in part to the State Services Commission from the Department of Internal Affairs on 2 October 2019, where you asked for:

"Information about everyone who has held the role of Chief Executive, Department of Internal Affairs for the last seven years, including their CV's, background experience and qualifications and their performance reviews."

In response to your request, during the period 2012 – 2019 there have been two people who have held the role of Chief Executive, Department of Internal Affairs. Colin MacDonald held the role between the period of 2012 – 2018 and Paul James was appointed into the role in 2018.

Information being withheld

As a general rule, information about an individual's employment is considered to be personal information in which the individual has a privacy interest. We are therefore refusing your request for the full CVs of the Chief Executives (CE) of the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. Instead, to balance the privacy and public interests, we are providing summary CVs, as set out below.

The performance reviews of the former CE of DIA, Colin MacDonald, are personal information, we are therefore withholding this information under section 9(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons.

We do not hold a performance review for the CE of DIA, Paul James. We are therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act on the grounds that the information you have requested does not exist.

Information publicly available

When CV information is sought in relation to a Public Service CE, it is generally accepted that the public interest in accountability is high. Consequently, this public interest may need to be recognised by the release of sufficient information to satisfy that public interest consideration.

Since May 2018 the State Services Commission has been proactively releasing appointment documents for Chief Executive appointments. Included in these documents is a summarised CV of the successful candidate.

We consider that the public interest in accountability is met by the proactive release of sufficient appointment information to satisfy the public interest consideration. Please find enclosed the document outlined in the table below which was proactively released at the time of Mr James' appointment:

Item	Document Description	Website Address
1	Appointment of Secretary for Internal Affairs and Chief Executive, Department of Internal Affairs	https://ssc.govt.nz/assets/Legacy/resources/Public-Service-Chief-Executive-Appointments-12jun18.pdf

Information being released

As Mr MacDonald's appointment to Chief Executive was prior to the commencement of the Commissioner proactively releasing papers relating to Chief Executive appointments, we are providing you with the document outlined in the below table, which was current at the time of Mr MacDonald's application for the role.

Please find enclosed the document outlined in the table below:

Item	Document Description	Decision
1	Colin MacDonald's Summarised Curriculum Vitae	Released in full

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

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz.

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.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents on the State Services Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks
Managing Principal – Ministerial Services
State Services Commission