

3 November 2019

Alex Douglas  
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REF: IR-01-19- 27859

Dear Alex

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 07 October 2019 in which you ask for:

*I would like to request the case file for the Michael John Dudley missing person investigation from 1978.*

*I live in Dunedin and am looking to raise public awareness of the case.*

Releasing the case file for Michael Dudley is likely to breach the privacy interests of Michael and his family.

As the public interest in releasing the information does not outweigh the privacy interests of the individual concerned this information is refused pursuant to Section 9(2) (a) of the Official Information Act 1982.

A recent decision by police to refuse the release of personal details including names in a similar request was supported by the Ombudsman in a written decision delivered on 21 March 2018 where it was stated *'I have now formed the final opinion that the Police were entitled to refuse the request, on a basis that the withholding of the information was necessary to protect the privacy of the missing people'*.

If you are not satisfied with the response to your request, you have the right to refer the matter to the Office of the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Detective Inspector Craig Scott

National Criminal Investigations Group

**Police National Headquarters**

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