

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Justice

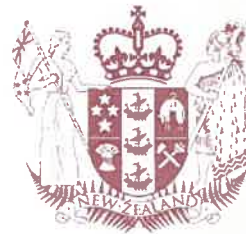
Minister for Courts

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minister Responsible for the NZSIS

Minister Responsible for the GCSB

Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry



Zane Collins

fyi-request-11602-462b1b3a@requests.fyi.org.nz

- 3 DEC 2019

Dear Mr Collins

Official Information Act request: Family Court reforms

Thank you for email of 5 November 2019 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), an update on the proposed reforms to the family justice system. Specifically, you requested:

“a detailed update about the status of the upcoming Family court reforms/rewrite following the recent final report that was released by the independent review/rewrite panel in May 2019.”

As you correctly note, the Independent Panel which examined the 2014 reforms to the family justice system presented its report to me in May 2019, and I publicly released it in June. I am now considering the Panel's report and no decisions have been made.

As this matter is subject to active consideration by the Government, I am refusing your request for a more detailed update under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA to “maintain the constitutional conventions ... which protect ... the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.” I am satisfied there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 available.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, you have the right to complain to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. Any complaints must be in writing. The contact details for the Office of the Ombudsman are info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
Wellington

Yours sincerely

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice