

14 April 2020

Shay McGuinness

By email: fyi-request-12422-554386c7@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202001332

Dear Mr McGuinness

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), refined on 20 March 2020, for:

"Please provide all communications (Including but not limited to: emails, letters, memos, reports, papers and text messages) between the following senior individuals in the Ministry of Health (MoH) and Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) regarding the provision of helicopter air ambulance services.

ADHB

1. Ailsa Claire

MoH

1. Ashley Bloomfield

2. Keriana Brooking

Note:

1. Applicable dates are 1/7/2019 to 10/3/2020

2. Emails include those sent, received or cc'd and include any attachments."

On 16 March 2020, you were consulted pursuant to section 18B of the Act to refine the scope of your request as it is very difficult to meet without substantial collation or research. Please note that your refined request remains administratively challenging to deal with.

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has conducted an initial search for the information you are requesting and have yielded approximately 150 emails for one of the specified individuals alone.

Responding to your request will require access to documents not readily available for review in the current national situation. Attempting to access the documents at present (searching for them on Ministry premises, as well as electronically) will unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Ministry. Further, consultation (internal and external) on the request cannot occur in the absence of access to the documents.

At this stage, the Ministry, along with many other agencies, have diverted significant resources to support the Government's response to COVID-19 at this stage. This is a fast-evolving situation and the Ministry must continue to respond at pace to this global pandemic.

For the reasons stated above, I have decided to refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act at this time. Please note we are open to considering any further requests in future.

Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Zoe Royden', written over a horizontal line.

Zoe Royden
Acting Manager OIA Services
Office of the Director-General