

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Justice

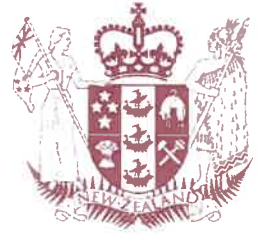
Minister for Courts

Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations

Minister Responsible for the NZSIS

Minister Responsible for the GCSB

Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry



Andrew Ecclestone

fyi-request-13258-c07c0964@requests.fyi.org.nz

04 AUG 2020

Dear Mr Ecclestone

Official Information Act review

Thank you for your email of 7 July 2020 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information about a possible review of the Act. Specifically you said:

There is a report in Stuff today that quotes you as saying are "committed to a rewrite of the Official Information Act, and this work will take place in association with my colleague Chris Hipkins, Minister of State Services [Open Government]." In view of the fact that you have made a decision on this subject, and that the Government's commitment in its Open Government Action Plan is to publish the advice to you on this subject, please can you provide me with all the advice provided to you on reform of the OIA from April 2019 to date."

As you note, I intend to progress a review of the Act after the election. Initial work by the Ministry of Justice last year identified a number of issues with both the legislation and current practice. However, a decision on the scope and timing of a review is still subject to Cabinet decisions in the next Parliamentary term.

As Cabinet is yet to decide on the scope and timing of a review, the document you request is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. I am satisfied that there are no other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make this information available at this time.

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Thank you for writing to me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'A Little', written over a large, faint watermark of the number '13'.

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice