

08 October 2020

Anthony Jordan

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Tēnā koe Anthony

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-006789**

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2020, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Total meetings attended by ex-Minister Iain Francis Lees-Galloway (excluding any board meetings)*
2. *Total Board meetings attended by ex-Minister Iain Francis Lees-Galloway*
3. *Changes made to ACC policy as the result of attendance of ex-Minister Iain Francis Lees-Galloway's meetings (excluding any board meeting)*
4. *Changes made to ACC policy as the result of attendance of ex-Minister Iain Francis Lees-Galloway*
5. *Changes made to ACC policy, not as the result of attendance of ex-Minister Iain Francis Lees-Galloway's meetings (excluding any board meeting)*
6. *Changes made to ACC policy, not as the result of attendance of ex-Minister Iain Francis Lees-Galloway.*

**Changes to ACC policy**

We have interpreted your request regarding ACC policy, as concerning the policy settings that comprise the Accident Compensation Scheme (“the AC Scheme”), including the Accident Compensation Act 2001 and associated regulations. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is responsible for advising the Minister for ACC on matters relating to the AC scheme, and legislation and regulations governing the Scheme. Treasury and MBIE work together to identify where policy opportunities may exist as a result of changing trends in performance.

Any changes the Minister proposes to the AC Scheme need to be agreed by Cabinet and legislative changes need to go through the Parliamentary process.

ACC is responsible for operating the scheme, focusing on effective delivery of injury prevention initiatives and no-fault personal injury cover for everyone in New Zealand, including overseas visitors. The division of responsibility between MBIE and ACC reflects ACC’s status as a Crown Agent and allows ACC to focus on the effective and efficient delivery of the scheme.

**Meetings attended by Minister Iain Lees-Galloway**

Minister Lees-Galloway held a weekly officials’ meeting with MBIE, Treasury and ACC officials.

All meetings attended by Minister Lees-Galloway, including the weekly officials meeting are available in ministerial diaries published on the Parliament website. This can be found at

[https://www.beehive.govt.nz/search?query=&f%5B0%5D=government\\_facet%3A6203&f%5B1%5D=ministers%3A6385&f%5B2%5D=content\\_type\\_facet%3Aministerial\\_diary](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/search?query=&f%5B0%5D=government_facet%3A6203&f%5B1%5D=ministers%3A6385&f%5B2%5D=content_type_facet%3Aministerial_diary).

As such, we are refusing to provide you with this information as it is publicly available. This decision is made under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Minister Lees-Galloway attended one ACC Board meeting in March 2018.

### **Changes made to ACC scheme policy discussed at Minister Lees-Galloway's regular weekly officials' meetings**

The following is a brief description of changes made to the AC Scheme when Minister Lees-Galloway held the position of Minister for ACC from 26 October 2017 to 22 July 2020, the background to which you can find on the MBIE website at <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/document-library> by filtering for topic *Employment and Skills* and sub topic *ACC*:

- The Government set ACC levies for 2019/20 to 2020/21 (<http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/acc-levies-drop-will-save-kiwi-businesses-100-million>), made changes to Experience Rating and removed Vehicle Risk Rating from the Motor Vehicle levy.
- Parliament passed the Accident Compensation Amendment Act 2019 (<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/bill-improve-acc-scheme-passed>), which made changes to:
  - ensure cover to the spouses or partners and dependents of New Zealand employees posted offshore.
  - allow ACC claimants injured near to, or after retirement age to receive both weekly compensation and New Zealand Superannuation or the Veterans' Pension for up to 24 months.
  - disestablish the historic Accident Compensation Appeal Authority given the low number of appeals to this body under the repealed 1972 and 1982 Acts.
  - allow surviving spouses and dependents to receive up to five years of weekly compensation, regardless of age.
  - move from an annual review to a biennial review of the Accident Compensation (Liability to Pay or Contribute to the Cost of Treatment) Regulations 2003.
  - automatically update the maximum and minimum liable earnings to the minimum wage and the Labour Cost Index respectively to improve the workability of biennial levy rounds.
- The Government moved the definitions of Registered Health Professionals and Treatment Providers from the Accident Compensation Act 2001 to the Accident Compensation (Definitions) Regulations 2019.
- The Government agreed to change ACC Funding Settings to improve accountability and transparency by reflecting the true cost of accidents; signal the Government's commitment to the longevity of the ACC scheme by addressing the funding gap in the Non-Earners' Account; and raise future living standards by improving intergenerational equity (July 2020).
- The Government announced it would maintain current levy rates for the next two years, as part of a set of changes to help ease the financial pressures of COVID-19 providing certainty for businesses and New Zealanders (July 2020).

There were no changes to the AC Scheme that were not discussed at a weekly officials' meeting.

#### **How to get in touch**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Wood', written in a cursive style.

Sasha Wood  
**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support