



28 APR 2021

Nick Coyle
fyi-request-14799-79736e47@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 86312

Dear Mr Coyle

Official Information Act request: Privacy of Disputes Tribunal proceedings

Thank you for your email of 1 March 2021 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Disputes Tribunal. Specifically, you requested:

Would you please provide me with any information held by the Ministry, such as cabinet papers, reports to ministers, and internal memorandum, which relate to why hearings in, and decisions of, the Disputes Tribunal remain private contrary to the numerous recommendations from the Law Society to make them public?

I have appended to this letter a list of the documents that fall within scope of your request. Copies of the documents are enclosed. Some of the documents have been provided in excerpt format to provide the information relevant to your request.

Please note that document one is publicly available. It can be interloaned from any library as it is on the National Library Database. However, I have also provided a copy of this for your convenience.

Please note that document 12 is publicly available and can be found here:
www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2015-02/ris-justice-imdt-feb15.pdf

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.

Yours sincerely

Sam Kunowski
General Manager – Courts and Justice Services Policy

Appendix: Information held by the Ministry regarding decisions of the Disputes Tribunal remaining private

| No. | Date | Type | Title | Comments |
|-----|----------|--|---|---|
| 1 | 31/08/04 | Cabinet paper | Government Response of the Law Commission Report 'Delivering Justice for All' | Some information out of scope. |
| 2 | 31/08/04 | Report | Government Response of the Law Commission Report 'Delivering Justice for All' | Released in full. This is also publicly available. |
| 3 | 16/12/13 | Cabinet minute | Disputes Tribunal: Increasing the Maximum Claims Level | Some information out of scope. |
| 4 | 16/12/13 | Cabinet Social Policy Committee excerpt | Disputes Tribunal: Increasing the Maximum Claims Level | Some information out of scope. |
| 5 | 27/03/14 | Letter | Proposed Amendments to the Disputes Tribunals Act 1988 | Some information out of scope. |
| 6 | 23/05/14 | File note excerpt | Meetings with Anne Darroch, Principal Disputes Referee | Some information out of scope. |
| 7 | 12/06/14 | Agenda excerpt | Meeting with Principal Disputes Referee, Anne Darroch, and Referee Dr Cynthia Hawes | Some information out of scope. |
| 8 | 12/06/14 | File note excerpt | Meeting regarding proposed Disputes Tribunals reforms | Some information out of scope. |
| 9 | 10/04/15 | Briefing excerpt | Additional Proposals for the Courts and Tribunals Enhanced Services Bill | Some information out of scope. |
| 10 | 01/06/16 | Cabinet Social Policy Committee minute excerpt | Modernising the Courts and Tribunals System | Some information out of scope. |
| 11 | 01/06/16 | Cabinet paper excerpt | Modernising the Courts and Tribunals System | Some information out of scope. |
| 12 | 07/06/16 | Cabinet minute excerpt | Modernising the Courts and Tribunals System | Some information out of scope. |
| 13 | No date | Regulatory Impact Statement | Increasing the Maximum Claims Level in Disputes Tribunals | Refusing under section 18(d) as it is publicly available. |