

28 October 2021

Victoria Muninn

Emailed to: fyi-request-16962-6fcdd242@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Victoria

Official Information Act request: correspondence with Digital Identity New Zealand

This letter responds to your request of 30 September 2021, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), for ‘all correspondence with Digital Identity New Zealand by the Commissioner and his staff since the 2017 general election.’

Section 206 of the Privacy Act imposes an obligation for the Privacy Commissioner and the Commissioner’s staff to maintain secrecy in respect of all matters that come to their knowledge in the exercise of their functions under the Act. However, the obligation of secrecy does not apply where, in the Commissioner’s opinion, information ought to be disclosed for the purposes of giving effect to the Act.

I have reviewed the information that falls within the scope of your request in light of this secrecy provision. I have decided that it does assist in giving effect to the Privacy Act to release information that illustrates my Office’s approach to certain issues, and whose release has not been objected to by Digital Identity New Zealand (DINZ).

Accordingly, documents that fall within the scope of your request are attached. The documents consist of emails and their associated attachments.

I have withheld certain information because of the secrecy requirements in section 206 of the Privacy Act. This means that they are withheld under section 18(c)(i) of the OIA: making the information available would be contrary to the provisions of another enactment. Specifically, I have redacted all contact details and most names of individuals from DINZ and other organisations that form part of the correspondence. Withholding this information is also consistent with section 9(2)(a) of the OIA (protection of the privacy of natural persons).

Please also note the following points:

- DINZ was established in November 2018, so there is no correspondence with DINZ before that date.

- In some cases, information has been redacted because it is not within the scope of your request (where there is an email chain, part of which is not correspondence between DINZ and my Office).
- My Office has not found a response on file to the 13 December 2019 email from the then Executive Director of DINZ, regarding participation in a project on AML reliance.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'John Edwards', written in a cursive style.

John Edwards
Privacy Commissioner

Encls.