



27 June 2012

Joshua Grainger

Dear Mr Grainger

REQUEST UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

I refer to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) dated 26 April 2012 (extension to 21 June) for information about Sex Offender Registers. As your request covers a number of issues, I will address the various aspects of your request individually.

Cabinet Papers, Memos and Related Documents

You have requested copies of "*all papers (including Cabinet Papers), proposals, memos or other documents that explain this proposal*". I have identified two documents that fall within the scope of your request.

The first is a briefing to the Minister of Police dated 21 March 2012. The second is a Police research paper which remains in draft form. I am withholding both of these papers in full under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or to Ministers and employees of any Department; and
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and Officials.

Both these briefings are being withheld pending the outcome of a Ministerial Inquiry into a convicted sex offender. The release of this material may pre-empt any recommendations made as a result of the Inquiry, and the subsequent consideration of those recommendations by Cabinet.

Correspondence

You have also requested copies of "*all correspondence with MP's, including Ministers and their staff, over this proposal*". With the exception of the Ministerial Briefing listed above, I have identified two e-mails dated 28 March and 4 April between Police and the Minister of Police which fall within the scope of your request. The content of both these e-mails are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act for the reasons stated above.

Safer Communities Together

POLICE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

180 Molesworth Street, PO Box 3017, DX SX11149, Wellington 6140, New Zealand

Telephone: (04) 474 9499 Facsimile: (04) 498 7400 www.police.govt.nz

Oral Conversations (Meeting Time and Dates)

You have also requested the times and dates of any oral conversations that have taken place between MPs, Ministers and their staff on this topic. This information is not held by Police. Section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 provides that requests for information may be refused in such circumstances.

Correspondence with Other Agencies

You have also requested copies of all correspondence between agencies outside the New Zealand Police on this issue. I have identified the following documents that fall into the scope of your request and that are held by New Zealand Police:

- an e-mail to the Department of Corrections dated 3 April; and
- an e-mail to the Ministry of Justice dated 7 April; and
- and an e-mail to the Ministry of Education dated 18 April.

All this correspondence is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act for the reasons stated above.

Costings

You have also requested all costings on this proposal. I can confirm that no costing work on this issue has been undertaken. Consequently, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

Other Issues

You end your letter with a number of requests relating to the specific operation of a Sex Offender Register. As work on these issues is still at an early stage, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.

Please note that you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Kelly
General Manager
Strategy, Policy and Performance