



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister
Minister of Tourism

Ministerial Services
Minister in Charge of the
NZ Security Intelligence Service
Minister Responsible for the GCSB

15 SEP 2014

Stuart Yeates
Email: fyi-request-1912-a6b69f05@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Yeates

Official Information Act Request for Email Contact from Bloggers

I refer to your official information request of 18 August 2014 for information on *“which bloggers (who and how many times contacted) your office has had email contact with between the first of March 2014 and the first of May 2014 this year”*.

I have understood your request to mean you are after information on all bloggers that have had email correspondence with the Office of the Prime Minister from March this year to May this year.

It is likely that any information held by this Office relevant to your request would not be official information. Communications with this Office may be in relation to the Prime Minister's role as a Minister of the Crown but may also be communications made in other capacities (such as Leader of the National Party, or Member of Parliament). Information on communications relating to the Prime Minister's role as a Minister of the Crown is “official information”, information on other communications is not, and so is not subject to the Official Information Act.

To identify any email correspondence that may have been provided to this Office in the Prime Minister's capacity as a Minister of the Crown would require searching the large volume of correspondence sent and received by the Prime Minister and staff in this Office. It is difficult to locate information received by this Office via email which may be relevant to your request. Not all email correspondence goes through the Prime Minister's correspondence unit for recording. There are around 30 staff in this Office who both receive and send a large volume of email correspondence every day. In addition, there is also no easy way to identify bloggers and many journalists also operate blogsites which further complicates the identification of an individual that may be defined as a blogger. This Office receives a large amount of email correspondence from the media.

Given both the difficulties inherent in identifying any relevant email correspondence and the volume of correspondence handled by this Office, to do so would require substantial research and collation. For that reason, your request as it is currently framed is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act: *“that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research”*. In reaching this decision, I first considered the factors contained in sections 18A(1) and 18B of the Official Information Act. However, I did not consider that taking any of these steps would allow the request to be answered.

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You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Eagleson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "W" and "E".

Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff