

1 June 2022

Andrew Li
fyi-request-19450-59ae567d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 96193

Tēnā koe Andrew

Official Information Act request: documents relating to case from 2003

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2022 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), documents held by the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) relating to charges in 2003 against an individual. Specifically you requested:

In 2003, valid charges against a William Gannin Ormsby for sexual violation and indecent assault, and assault with intent to commit sexual violation against a woman were dropped because of undue influence by his then partner, now wife Nanaia Mahuta.

Evidence suggests that these crimes and their coverup have been used by hostile foreign forces to blackmail Ms. Mahuta into supporting human rights violations, which makes this a matter very much in the public interest to report on.

In the interests of reporting to protect the public from the ongoing blackmail against Ms. Mahuta, I am requesting all documents held by the Ministry of Justice that could relate to the decision to drop said charges.

The Ministry does not hold any information relating to this case. Such information is likely to be contained in the court record. It is important to note that Courts operate independently from the government, Ministers and their officials. This is to ensure that the judicial process and judges' decisions remain free from any outside interference. While the Ministry provides administrative support to courts, the judiciary are responsible for court records.

Details of cases are considered court record, and are therefore not held by the Ministry, nor subject to the Act under section 2(6)(a). As such, we must refuse your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds for believing it is held by another agency or Minister.

Access to court records is dealt with by separate legislation and Court Rules and you would need to contact the relevant court directly. The details for the courts can be found at: courtsofnz.govt.nz/utilities/contact/courts

You do not have to request information in person from the courts. You can do so by contacting them and filling out an application. This can be done via email or by post.

You can also find the relevant form at: justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Forms/MOJ0148.2-Sept-2021-Application-for-access-to-court-docs-updated-v0.6.pdf

Please be aware that your name and address will be given to the parties to the relevant proceeding or appeal, as a part of the application process and that this may include the defendant/offender. No other contact or personal information should be given to the parties.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request, 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenna Bottcher Hansen', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

Jenna Bottcher Hansen
Manager, Ministerial Relations and Services