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A1140960

14 October 2014

Mr Alex Harris
fyi-request-2021-6951ab9a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Harris

I refer to your email dated 14 September 2014, in which you ask:

- On how many occasions in the past year did the Director consult with the leader of the opposition as required by s8D(4)? For each occasion, I would like date, and if known, the duration of consultation (I assume topics will be withheld under s.6(a) of the OIA).

In response to your request the leader of the opposition was briefed by me or my representative on the following occasions:

- Wednesday 20 November 2013 – 60 minutes
- Tuesday 3 December 2013 – 60 minutes
- Tuesday 28 January 2014 – 30 minutes
- Thursday 24 July 2014 – 30 minutes

Please note that the durations listed above are the timings that were scheduled. The actual time spent with the leader of the opposition may differ from that listed.

I decline to provide the details of the consultations under the provisions of the following sections:

- Section 6(a) of the Official Information Act (the Act), on the grounds that disclosure of the topics would likely prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iii) of the Act, on the grounds that disclosure of the topics would likely prejudice the political neutrality of officials;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, on the grounds that disclosure of the topics would likely prejudice the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and Officials.

I am required by section 19 of the Act to advise you that you have the right, by way of
compliant under section 28(3) to an Ombudsman, to seek and investigation and review of
the refusal.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Fletcher', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Ian Fletcher
Director