



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

29 NOV 2014

Tristan Rossiter-Sheehy

Email: fyi-request-2130-8fbe3058@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Tristan Rossiter-Sheehy

Official Information Act Request for Information on Use of Ministerial Resources

I refer to your official information request of 24 October 2014 for:

- *“the number of phone calls (landline and mobile) and emails that were orientated from the prime minister’s office that were not originated by the prime minister acting as the prime minister during the month of September 2014.*
- *I also would like to know the number of meetings (and duration) held in the prime minister’s office that were not part of the prime minister’s functions during September.*
- *I wish to know what prime ministerial resources have been used for non prime ministerial reasons.”*

Only information held in relation to Rt Hon John Key’s capacity as a Minister of the Crown is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Information relating to activities in any other capacities (such as Member of Parliament or Leader of the Parliamentary National Party) is not deemed to be official information. Therefore, the only official information relevant to your request would be information relating to telephone calls made, emails sent or meetings held in the capacity of a Minister of the Crown other than Prime Minister. For September 2014, this would be as Minister of Tourism, Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, Minister Responsible for the GCSB or Minister in Charge of the NZSIS.

This Office does not retain records of the capacity that the Prime Minister makes calls, sends emails or attends meetings. To identify the information you have requested would involve obtaining all records that may be available for the month of September 2014 and researching those records to make a judgment on each activity as to the capacity in which they may have been undertaken. This would then require collating all those activities undertaken and forming a view if it was made in a Ministerial capacity other than Prime Minister.

Given the volume of calls made, emails sent and meetings scheduled on any given day together with the difficulties inherent with both obtaining and assessing that information, I believe to respond to your request would require substantial research and collation. Therefore your request is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act on the basis 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 your 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, appearing to read 'Wayne Eagleson', with a stylized flourish extending upwards and to the right.

Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff