

# Hon Kieran McAnulty

Minister for Emergency Management  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister for Racing  
Minister for Rural Communities  
Deputy Leader of the House



16 May 2023

James  
fyi-request-22460-98ba3684@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

Thank you for your email of 14 April 2023 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“On the 13th of April the government relaunched its Three Waters policy as affordable water reforms at a press conference fronted by PM Hipkins and yourself. It was announced to media present, that the “numbers of the scheme had been peer reviewed twice.*

- 1. Under the OIA please provide the dates the numbers were reviewed and who they were reviewed by.*
- 2. Please provide all communications including but not limited to texts, emails, phone calls between yourself or your office and Minister Mahuta concerning Entrenchment under the previous 3 Waters scheme.*
- 3. Please provide all communications including but not limited to texts, emails and phone calls between yourself or your office and Minister Mahuta regarding co governance and/or Māori representation regarding the Affordable Water Reform.”*

On 27 April 2023, the first part of your request was transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) for response under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. The Department has 20 working days upon receipt of the transfer to respond to that part of your request.

I have no record of any communications with the previous Minister of Local Government relating to the issues mentioned in part two and three of your request. As such, your requests are refused pursuant to section 18(e) of the Act, *as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.* In my time as the Associate Minister of Local Government, I was copied into all status reports the Minister of Local Government, at the time, received from the Department of Internal Affairs. These may have contained references to the issues outlined in your request, however have been deemed out of scope as they are were not direct communications between myself and Hon Nanaia Mahuta.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kieran McNulty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Kieran McNulty  
**Minister of Local Government**