

Hon Dr Megan Woods

MP for Wigram

Minister of Housing

Minister for Infrastructure

Minister of Energy and Resources

Minister for Building and Construction

Associate Minister of Finance



11 SEP 2023

Warren Murdoch
fyi-request-23801-d04f8b63@requests.fyi.org.nz

OIA23-114

Dear Mr Murdoch

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), dated 12 August 2023, which you made through the www.fyi.org.nz website. You requested the following information:

All correspondence between you, your offices and the Ruapehu District Council, Kāinga Ora and Ngāti Rangī about anything to do with the Teitei development in Ohakune.

I can confirm that I hold a number of documents relating to the proposed development at Teitei Drive, Ohakune, that fall within the scope of your request. On 20 February 2023, I responded to a letter addressed to the previous Associate Minister of Housing, Hon Poto Williams, from Helen Leahy, Pou Ārahi / Chief Executive of the Ngā Waihui o Paerangi Trust in regard to the proposed development. These letters along with related correspondence between my office and Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities are released to you as Document One, as detailed in the attached Document Schedule.

I have also received several pieces of correspondence from members of the community outlining their concerns about the Teitei Drive development. This correspondence and related emails between my office and Kāinga Ora are released to you as Document Two.

Since the beginning of August I have received a number of Written Parliamentary Questions related to this matter. Correspondence between my office and Kāinga Ora regarding these questions is released to you as Document Three.

Further correspondence with Kāinga Ora regarding a proposed announcement of the project in October 2022 and a draft press release in June 2023 is released to you as Document Four.

I receive a regular Weekly Report from Kāinga Ora providing updates on various issues of interest. Several updates on Teitei Drive were included in the Weekly Report between 2 December 2022 and 23 June 2023. Relevant excerpts from these reports are released to you in full as Document Five, in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act.

Information is withheld from the documents outlined above under several sections of the Act. The names of members of the public, contact phone numbers of parliamentary and Kāinga Ora staff, and other information that could identify members of the community is withheld

under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. I consider there is limited public interest in the release of this information.

Several of the emails from Kāinga Ora to my office provided in Document Three included attachments containing background information and draft responses to Written Parliamentary Questions. These attachments are withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

There is long standing guidance from the Office of the Ombudsman regarding the release of draft responses to Parliamentary Questions under the Official Information Act. I refer you to Case Note W45495 published by the Office of the Ombudsman in November 2001, available at the following link <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/sites/default/files/2022-02/Request%20for%20draft%20answer%20to%20parliamentary%20question.pdf>.

I am also withholding information from the Report on Correspondence relating to Helen Leahy's letter of 29 November 2022, contained in Document One, under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act and do not consider the withholding of the information is outweighed by the public interest in making that information available.

I have decided to withhold the sale price for land at Teitei Drive, Ohakune quoted in Ms Leahy's letter under section 9(2)(j) of the Act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). I acknowledge the public interest in the sale of the land and the price agreed between the parties, however, I am advised that the purchase of the land is conditional at this point in time, and release of the sale price could prejudice any further negotiations between the parties.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Housing

Attachment One: Schedule of documents

Document number	Date	Description of document	Decision
1	29/11/2022 – 8/2/2023	Correspondence relating to Helen Leahy, Pou Ārahi / Chief Executive of the Ngā Waihui o Paerangi Trust	Released in part
2	28/7/2023 – 9/8/2023	Correspondence relating to community concerns	Released in part
3	2/8/2023 – 11/8/2023	Correspondence regarding Written Parliamentary Questions	Released in part
4	8/11/2022 – 15/6/2023	Other correspondence	Released in part
5	2/12/2022 – 23/6/2023	Excerpts from Kāinga Ora Weekly Reports	Released in full