

4 March 2024



John Luke

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Ref: DOIA-2324-0562

Tēnā koe John

Your Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2024 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your requests and our responses are below:

- 1) *...How many potential candidates for the [King's Birthday Honours 2024 have you] supplied to the Minister? And how many has the Minister agree[d] to nominate?*

The Ministry holds information regarding the potential candidates identified for a King's Birthday Honours 2024 that were provided to the Minister; and if any candidates were nominated by the Minister. However, protecting the confidentiality of the New Zealand Royal Honours (NZRH) details are essential to maintaining the integrity of the NZRH system.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under the following sections of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(ba)(ii) to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

- 2) *Also, any email, communication or memo regarding to these two action items as well.*

- a) *"Consider conducting stakeholder meetings with ethnic communities' representatives, economic development stakeholders and leaders of large national community organisations - December 2023."*

Stakeholder meetings were discussed at the Officials meeting on 29 January 2024, between the Minister and the Ministry. The draft advice document *Proposed Minister's engagement with stakeholders* was provided to the Minister at this meeting. This document is attached in full.

b) *"Consider and discuss hosting Parliamentary events including Chinese New Year and Eid ul-Fitr next year - December 2023."*

Potential Parliamentary events were discussed over several Official's meetings between the Minister and the Ministry. On 4 December 2023, the Minister confirmed that she still wants to hold Parliamentary events and Lunar New Year was proposed. On 23 January 2024, planning logistics for the 2024 Lunar New Year Parliamentary event was discussed. On 29 January 2024, planning logistics for the Eid-al-Fitr Parliamentary event as discussed.

As required by section 9(1) of the OIA, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under sections 9(2)(ba)(ii) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth
Director of Ministerial Services