



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

15 April 2024

Andrew Ecclestone

[fyi-request-26285-c76151e2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26285-c76151e2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Andrew

## Official Information Request Our Ref: OIA 2024-0076

I refer to your official information request received on 2 April 2024 where you have asked:

*"In October 2017 the State Services Commission provided to the Prime Minister a 'Briefing to the Incoming Government'.*

*A copy of the State Services Commissioner's letter to the Prime Minister is published on your website here: <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/publications/briefing-to-the-incoming-government-november-2017>.*

*However, the link on that page to the Briefing itself is broken and a search of your website and publications does not provide a link to the document itself.*

*I can also find no reference on your website to any 'Briefing to the Incoming Government' provided after the 2023 general election, or to any provided after the 2020 general election, but I know the 2017 briefing was not exceptional as I have a copy of the 2014 Briefing to the Incoming Government.*

*I would therefore like to request the following information:*

- 1) An unredacted copy of the Briefing to the Incoming Government sent to the Prime Minister in 2017;*
- 2) An unredacted copy of any briefing, or briefings, to the incoming Government sent to any minister after the 2020 general election; and*
- 3) An unredacted copy of the covering letters that were sent by the Commission to any minister who was provided with a briefing, or briefings, to the incoming government after the 2020 general election;*
- 4) An unredacted copy of any briefing, or briefings, to the incoming Government sent to any minister after the 2023 general election; and*
- 5) An unredacted copy of the covering letters that were sent by the Commission to any minister who was provided with a briefing, or briefings, to the incoming government after the 2023 general election.*

*To be clear, I am not requesting the post-election briefings to individual incoming State Services or Public Service ministers, unless they were the recipients of the Briefings to the Incoming Government.*

*Under section 16(2) of the OIA my preferences are (a) to receive a copy of the whole of each document (b) that the information is disclosed in a text searchable format, either Word or PDF, and (c) that it is sent to the email address from which the Commission received this request.”*

### **Our response**

In response to part one of your request, the briefing to the incoming government – 2017 was archived when our website was upgraded. This is now publicly available again at the following link on Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission’s website: [Briefing to the Incoming Government - November 2017 - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission](#).

There were no briefings or covering letters sent by Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission to the incoming government following the 2020 or 2023 general elections. We are therefore refusing those parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds the information does not exist.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission’s website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

**Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services  
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**