



# Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial  
Services

20 MAY 2015

Will Howard

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Dear Will Howard

## Official Information Request Relating to Communications Regarding Rosie Café

I refer to your two emails of 23 April 2015 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act for:

- *"a copy of any communications your office have had regarding Amanda Bailey, waitress at Rosie Café;*
- *a copy of any communications your office have had concerning the Rosie Cafe."*

At the time that reports first appeared in the media on the matter of the Rosie café, the Prime Minister was travelling overseas. In terms of communications between this Office and the Prime Minister, there were telephone conversations following the reports in the media. There are no records of those conversations. I can confirm that staff in this Office advised the Prime Minister of the media coverage. A draft statement was prepared for responding to media queries arising from the media coverage and was cleared via telephone conversation. Any communications among staff in this Office drafting this statement are withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 as withholding the information is necessary 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 department or organisation in the course of their duty."*

The statement itself was widely reported in media at the time and, to the extent your request is for that statement, it has been declined under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act on the basis that *"that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available."*

In addition, this Office has received numerous queries from the media relating to this matter. It is not the practice of the media team or the Prime Minister to divulge details of communications from journalists. Any communications from journalists themselves have been withheld under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 9(2)(a) as withholding the information is necessary *"to protect the privacy of natural persons."*
- section 9(2)(ba)(i) as withholding the information is necessary 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 to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied."*

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The only other information identified that would be relevant to your request is the circulation of media stories and coverage in the media of the Prime Minister responding to questions. These were circulated among members of staff in this Office. As these stories are already in the public domain, section 18(d) of the Official Information Act also applies to these communications.

No public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Eagleson  
**Chief of Staff**