

7 June 2024

Patrick
fyi-request-26969-a9aff25c@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO OIA 256-2023-24

Dear Patrick

Official Information Act request about the “I Am Hope” charity

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 24 May 2024. You requested:

“[Numbering added]

[1] *Please provide any documents or correspondence provided to your office that shows that the Charity I am Hope generates \$5.70 for every \$1 invested.*

Additionally please provide the following:

[2] *Documents that declare conflicts of interest between National Party MP and companies involving ex national party members.*

[3] *what performance measures would be given to I am Hope.*

[4] *the procurement process documents for choosing to fund I am Hope, what other charities were considered, and whether funding the public health system was considered.”*

I believe that Parts [1], [3] and [4] of your request as numbered above are more closely connected to the functions of the Minister for Mental Health, Hon Matt Doocey. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer these parts of your request to Hon Matt Doocey, as the Minister for Mental Health under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The Minister for Mental Health has the usual time limits from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

For Part [2] of your request, relating to declarations of conflicts of interest, the Prime Minister’s Office holds information about declarations of interest made by Ministers. Some of those declarations may relate to interests that are in scope of your request.

Having considered your request and the information held, I am withholding this information under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would damage the public interest;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; 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 or officials in the course of their duty.

Successive Ombudsmen have long held the view that advice to Ministers on conflicts of interest is inherently confidential. Details regarding conflicts of interest are not generally disclosed, in order to ensure the confidentiality of Cabinet proceedings, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs and in some cases to protect personal privacy.


The Cabinet Office proactively releases some information about the management of ministerial conflicts in accordance with an agreement with the Office of the Ombudsman. This information covers transfers of responsibility and arrangements not to receive papers. These releases are published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at: www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/ministers-and-their-portfolios/ministers-interests.

Information about certain financial and other interests of MPs (including Ministers) is published on an annual basis in the Register of Pecuniary and Other Specified Interests of Members of Parliament, available at: www.parliament.nz/en/mps-and-electoralates/members-financial-interests.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff



Hon Matt Doocey
Minister for Mental Health
M.Doocey@ministers.govt.nz

Ref: PMO OIA 256-2023-24

Dear Minister

Official Information Act request about the “I Am Hope” charity

On 24 May 2024, I received the **attached** Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request from Patrick. The request was for:

“[Numbering added]

[1] *Please provide any documents or correspondence provided to your office that shows that the Charity I am Hope generates \$5.70 for every \$1 invested.*

Additionally please provide the following:

[2] *Documents that declare conflicts of interest between National Party MP and companies involving ex national party members.*

[3] *what performance measures would be given to I am Hope.*

[4] *the procurement process documents for choosing to fund I am Hope, what other charities were considered, and whether funding the public health system was considered.”*

I believe that Parts [1], [3] and [4] as numbered above of the request for information about the “I Am Hope” charity is more closely connected to your functions as the Minister for Mental Health. Accordingly, I have decided to transfer these parts of the request to you under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

I have today informed the requestor of the transfer, and that you have the usual time limits to make a decision.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Burrows
Chief of Staff