

# Office of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon

Prime Minister  
Minister for National Security and Intelligence  
Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services



30 July 2024

James Webb  
fyi-request-27352-09fbc689@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO OIA 030-2024-25

Dear James Webb

## Official Information Act request: OIA policies and records follow up.

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 22 July 2024. You requested:

*"I would like further information as to how my request was considered under section 18B, and the decision to not consult with me to assist in my request. You state that the request would require substantial collation for manually checking these details for 102 requests. I am more than happy to change my request to a number of requests that you deem manageable to extract this information for. If you could advise me of this that would be appreciated."*

The points we could have consulted you on would have been the timeline for the request (i.e., reducing it from seven weeks) or the number of data points to be considered. Changing the number of data points would not have an impact on the time needed to process the request. We get an average of 14 requests per week so we would have needed to reduce the timeframe for the request to less than a week which would not provide any statistically meaningful or reliable information. We therefore concluded consulting with you would not resolve the difficulty in processing your request.

Our OIA tracking tool cannot be analysed electronically, nor can we generate a random sample for analysis. To answer your request, we would need to open each line item and analyse it manually for the five different types of information you requested. This would have taken a large amount of a staff person's time and interfered with the smooth running of the Prime Minister's Office, thus the decision was taken to refuse under section 18(f) of the Act.

We estimate we can manually analyse ten OIA requests without it impacting on the Office's ability to function well. However, that is less than 10% of the 102 we received in the timeframe you specified and is, in fact, less than an average week during that timeframe. Our view is this would be statistically meaningless and could also lead to a false impression. If you would like us to proceed with providing you this data for ten requests please advise and we will start to collate that information.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Cameron Burrows', written over the typed name.

Cameron Burrows  
Chief of Staff