



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

27 August 2024

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Tēnā koe James

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA2425-0105

I am responding to your request partially transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) on 31 July 2024 requesting the following information under Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

All briefings, meetings, minutes, notes, and emails, etc. as it relates to the letter [sent by the Minister of Local Government to the Justice Committee]. This includes but is not limited to, correspondence with the Minister [of Local Government] and others when creating the letter, discussions around the language used, and any anticipated responses or opinions. This also includes communication with the Minister about the letter and its contents after it was sent to the Committee.

There are 17 documents within scope of your request. A list of these documents can be found at **Table One**. I am withholding Document Six in full, under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, 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.

The remaining 16 documents are enclosed, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. Some documents have been withheld because they are duplicates of previous documents, and their duplication is noted within Table One. Information has also been withheld where it is out of scope of your request.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

Proactive release of your request

We intend to publish our response to your request on www.dia.govt.nz. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Access to the Ombudsman

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Cauchi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeremy Cauchi
Director, Ministerial and Monitoring



Table One

#	Name of document	Document date	Decision	Withholding grounds
1	Email Chain: 2 questions on House procedure (1/2)	14 September 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a) Out of scope
2	Email Chain: 2 questions on House procedure (2/2)	14-15 September 2022	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
3	Email: Discharge options in the new term	18 September 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
4	Email chain: Discussion with MOJ About Advice to Minister RE Voting Age Bill	26 October 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
5	Email Chain: MOJ Feedback on Draft Voting Age Bill	31 October- 1 November 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
6	Attachment: Draft reinstatement briefing – Voting Age Bill	No Date	Withhold	9(2)(g)(i)
7	Briefing: Advice on the reinstatement motion: Electoral (Lowering Voting Age for Local Elections and Polls) Legislation Bill	28 November 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
8	Email Chain: Procedure for withdrawing a Bill before select committee	6-8 December 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
9	Attachment: Letter from Hon Chris Bishop to Simeon Brown about the Bill	7 December 2023	Release	Nil

#	Name of document	Document date	Decision	Withholding grounds
10	Email: Assigning author to respond to letter from Chris Bishop <i>Attachment is Duplicate of Document Six</i>	8 December 2023	Release	Nil
11	Email: Sending draft response to Hon Chris Bishop to the Office	12 December 2023	Release	Nil
12	Attachment: Draft Letter Reply to Hon Chris Bishop	Undated	Release	Nil
13	Email Chain: Letter to the Justice Committee re voting age Bill	13 December 2023	Release	Nil
14	Attachment: Draft Letter to the Justice Committee	Undated	Release	Nil
15	Email: Voting age Bill – Justice Committee <i>Attachment is Duplicate of Document 14</i>	18 December 2023	Partial Release	9(2)(a)
16	Email Chain: Confirmation letter sent to Justice Committee	21 December 2023	Release	Nil
17	Email Chain: Release of the final IER report and voting age	15 January 2024	Partial Release	9(2)(a)