



10 June 2015

Dear M Ross,

Ref: OIA 1472

Thank you for your submission of 5 June 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA), the following information:

"I am enquiring regarding correspondence between the ex Minister of Immigration, Lianne Dalziel, and her correspondence between parties in relation to help regarding any immigration issues.

Could I please receive all communication between her, and her office, in relation to this during her tenure as Immigration Minister for New Zealand".

I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA as it would require substantial collation or research. During her tenure as the Minister of Immigration, Lianne Dalziel and her office would have received correspondence from thousands of individuals requesting help regarding immigration issues. Under the Immigration Act 1987 (and its successor, the Immigration Act 2009), as the Minister of Immigration she had discretion to grant a visa to any non-citizen and intervene in any case. Often, writing to the Minister of Immigration requesting his or her intervention was the only immigration option available. Providing all such communication to and from the Minister and/or her office would remove Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment staff from their core duties and therefore the greater public interest in the effective and efficient administration of the public service would not be served.

Normally, consistent with the Ministry's obligations under section 18A of the OIA, Ministry staff would contact you to establish whether you can narrow your request, e.g. to communications about a particular subject, communications to/from a specific individual or individuals, communications within a narrower timeframe, etc. However, we have been unable to contact you because your request did not include your full name or contact information.

The Ministry therefore invites you to narrow or clarify the information you are seeking and resubmit your request.

You have the right to seek and investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143



If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact me at tracey.turner@mbie.govt.nz or 04 896 5178.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Turner".

Tracey Turner
Acting Executive Director, Immigration
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment