

## Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy  
Minister of Local Government  
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland  
Deputy Leader of the House



George Bastille  
[fyi-request-27962-2229c0c5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-27962-2229c0c5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

OIA24-326

Dear George,

I am responding to your email of 7 August 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*In relation to the Wellington City Council confidential information protocols, please provide any letters, emails, Txt messages, WhatsApp messages, Signal messages, Viber messages, calendar appointments, and handwritten/typed notes/recordings of phone conversations/meetings between:*

- *Minister Simeon Brown (and/or his staff) and Councillor Diane Calvert*
- *Minister Simeon Brown (and/or his staff) and Councillor Tony Randle*
- *Minister Simeon Brown (and/or his staff) and the Chief Ombudsman/Ombudsman's Office*
- *Minister Simeon Brown (and/or his staff) and Mark Crofskey*
- *Minister Simeon Brown (and/or his staff) and Dean Knight for the period between 1 May and 30 June 2024.*

My staff and I have not received any correspondence from Cr Diane Calvert, Cr Tony Randle, Mark Crofskey or Dean Knight about the *Wellington City Council confidential information protocols*.

The definition of 'official information' is set out in section 2 of the Act. Subparagraph (i) of this definition provides that 'official information':

"does not include information contained in any correspondence or communication which has taken place between the office of the Ombudsmen and any public service agency or Minister of the Crown or organisation and which relates to an investigation conducted by an Ombudsman under this Act or under the Ombudsmen Act 1975, other than information that came into existence before the commencement of that investigation;"

The application of this definition means that the Ombudsman's letters do not qualify as 'official information' under the Act. I am not required to release correspondence with the Ombudsman's Office under the Act.

Therefore, this request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information refused does not exist, or despite reasonable efforts to located it, cannot be found.

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You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek a 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.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Simeon Brown".

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Local Government**