

15 October 2024

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Tēnā koe Ben

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA2425-0264

I am responding to your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred on 17 September 2024 from the Office of Hon Judith Collins KC to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You asked for the following information:

- 1. All documents and communication from 2017 to today related to the process of digitizing government in general, and the Government Online Engagement Service (GOES) system in particular.*
- 2. A list of all those interviewed as part of the 2017 GOES review and any information/documentation resulting from or summarising those interviews.*

Part one

On 30 September 2024, the Department sent a letter to you advising that part one of your request is likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the Act unless amended because the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

We did not receive a response to this letter and are therefore refusing part one of your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

Part two

There are two documents within the scope of part two of your request. These documents are attached as **Appendix A**.

I am partially releasing both of these documents, with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Information resulting from the interviews is publicly available in the information published on www.digital.govt.nz. For the review of the Government Online Engagement Service pilot, which is referenced in your request, was provided to you in the Department's letter of 30 September 2024.

Public Interest Considerations

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

Access to the Ombudsman

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Balakrishnan', written in a cursive style.

Anita Balakrishnan
Director Ministerial and Monitoring