

Hon Simeon Brown

MP for Pakuranga

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport

Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



James Powell

fyi-request-28447-38c43cf2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA24-381

I am responding to your email of 20 September 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

all information (advice, briefings, memos, emails, texts or other communications) held by you or your office mentioning putting a commissioner, a crown observer or other central government oversight mechanism on Wellington City Council.

I am interpreting your request to be for the time-period from 27 November 2023 (when Ministers for this Government were sworn in) to 20 September 2024 (when your request was lodged).

There are 72 documents that fall within the scope of your request. A list of these documents can be found at **Table one**. Correspondence and the proposed response to it have been grouped together as, for example, documents 3 and 3A.

I am releasing three documents in full, withholding two and partially releasing the remainder. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- 9(2)(g)(i), 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; and
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal privilege.

These documents are attached as **Appendix A**. Document 18A, an MP4 file, is attached as **Appendix B**.

Public Interest Considerations

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have given consideration to 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 of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown'.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

Table one: Documents in scope

#	Document name	Document date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
Briefings				
1	[Briefing] Wellington drinking water supply – request for information	19 January 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h)
2	[Briefing] Analysis on Wellington City and Upper Hutt City Council’s responses to Minister’s letter	15 February 2024	Withheld	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i)
Ministerial correspondence				
3	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	30 November 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
3A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
4	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	30 November 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
4A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
5	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	30 November 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
5A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
6	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	2 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
6A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
7	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	3 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
7A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
8	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	3 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)

#	Document name	Document date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
8A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
9	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	15 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
9A	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9B	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Withheld	Duplicated in 9C, 9D, and 9E
9C	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9D	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9E	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9F	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9G	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9H	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9I	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
9J	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	10 January 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
10	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	13 December 2023	Partially released	9(2)(a)
10A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	9 February 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
11	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	12 February 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)

#	Document name	Document date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
11A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	4 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
12	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	9 January 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
12A	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
12B	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	4 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
13	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	26 January 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
13A	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Partially released	9(2)(a)
13B	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Released in full	-
13C	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Released in full	-
13D	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	8 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
14	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	15 February 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
14A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	7 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
15	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	29 February 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
16	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	8 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
16A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	4 April 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
17	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	1 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
17A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	26 April 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
18	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
18A	Attachment to correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]		Released in full	-

#	Document name	Document date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
18B	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	30 April 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
19	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	5 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
19A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	1 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
20	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	4 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
20A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	1 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
21	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	15 March 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
21A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	2 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
22	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	26 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
22A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	21 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
23	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	31 May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
24	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	12 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
25	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	20 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
25A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	18 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
26	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	20 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
26A	Proposed response to [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	18 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
27	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	25 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
28	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	26 June 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
29	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	24 July 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
30	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	6 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
31	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	6 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)

#	Document name	Document date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
32	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	8 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
33	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	18 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
34	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
35	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
36	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)
37	Correspondence from [withheld under 9(2)(a)]	19 September 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a)