



04 December 2024

Charlie McLean
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Ref: OIA-2024/25-0377

Dear Charlie

Official Information Act request relating to advice and correspondence relating to He Whenua Taurikura research centre

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 23 October 2024. You requested:

1. *I request all advice provided to the Prime Minister and Hon Judith Collins on the decision to remove funding for He Whenua Taurikura research centre.*
2. *I also request all correspondence sent and received by the Department related to this decision.*

For ease of reference, I have numbered your request.

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 12 working days because consultations were needed before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

Part [1] of your request

In relation to part [1] of your request, on 4 November 2024 your request was partially transferred to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon and his office. They will respond to you directly with anything they may hold in relation to part [1] of your request (if they have not done so already).

Funding the He Whenua Taurikura research centre was a Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) decision. The only documents identified from DPMC to Hon Judith Collins KC and/or her office related to the He Whenua Taurikura hui rather than the funding of the research centre. These documents have already been proactively released here: [Proactive Release: RCOI documents - August 2024 - Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#). Accordingly, the part of your request for *advice provided to Hon Judith Collins on the decision to remove funding for He Whenua Taurikura research centre* is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as it does not exist.

Part [2] of your request

We have interpreted part [2] of your request, as it relates to correspondence, to include emails or letters sent and received from DPMC to and from external agencies/staff about the decision to remove funding for the He Whenua Taurikura research centre. We have excluded media enquiries about this topic.

Information being released

Please find attached the documentation relevant to part [2] of your request and note some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of individuals. A small amount of information is not in scope of your request and is marked accordingly.

Information publicly available

The following information is publicly available, and you may find it useful:

- Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet 2024/25 Estimates Examination Responses to the Additional Pre-hearing Questions 114 – 119.
Q119: [adf0971a4b55f48ff21b8b6f9700b9f0451f99cf](https://www.ombudsman.govt.nz/records/2024-05-30/119)
- Page 76 of [Budget 2024 - Summary of Initiatives - 30 May 2024](#)
- Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet 2024/25 Estimates Examination Responses to the Pre-hearing Questions 1 – 113.
Q21: [0b10da2a66927956f921eac966949557d25a4097](https://www.ombudsman.govt.nz/records/2024-05-30/21)
- Vote Prime Minister and Cabinet 2024/25 Estimates Examination Responses to the Standard Estimates Questionnaire
Q11(g) : [3e89dc5ae45a108a2d5fbf8d8511ef8a16f0bb6e.](https://www.ombudsman.govt.nz/records/2024-05-30/11g)

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

We do not intend to publish this response on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website.

Yours sincerely



Bridget White
Executive Director
National Security Group