

Hon Casey Costello

Minister of Customs
Minister for Seniors
Associate Minister of Health
Associate Minister of Immigration
Associate Minister of Police



25 November 2024

OIA 24-271

Lee Burton
fyi-request-28929-56a4439a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Lee

I acknowledge your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 29 October 2024, in which you sought:

- *All documents and correspondence - including SMS, Signal, WhatsApp, and other messages on all social media and messaging platforms - relating to disclosures made by any staff working in your office (political or departmental) since you were appointed as a Minister of the Crown on 24 November 2023 relating to their inability to gain or maintain a New Zealand Government National Security Clearance.*
- *Any documents, correspondence, or reports made as to decisions you or your office put in place to mitigate these risks and how your office planned to withhold information from individuals who had or have not met the ability to hold or maintain a clearance.*
- *All correspondence between you or your office and the Office of the Prime Minister noting the matters referred to above.*
- *All correspondence between you or your office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister noting the matters referred to above.*
- *All correspondence between you or your office and any other Minister of the Crown or their offices noting the matters referred to above.*
- *All correspondence between you or your office and the Department of Internal Affairs noting the matters referred to above.*
- *All correspondence between you or your office and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet noting the matters referred to above.*
- *All correspondence between you or your office and the New Zealand Police noting the matters referred to above.*

I have not identified any material in scope of your request and therefore it is refused in full under section 18(e) of the OIA that the information requested does not exist.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with my response to your request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Casey Costello', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Hon Casey Costello
Associate Minister of Police