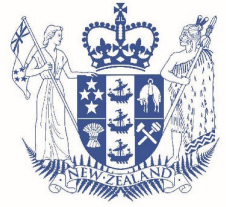


Hon Chris Penk

Minister for Building and Construction
Minister for Land Information
Minister for Small Business and Manufacturing
Minister for Veterans
Associate Minister of Defence
Associate Minister of Immigration



24 February 2025

OIA24-189

Kieran Pegler

fyi-request-29541-309fc588@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Kieran,

Thank you for your email of 13 December 2024 to my office in which you requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- '1) All advice to you from Immigration New Zealand (INZ) on Candace Owens;*
- 2) All information received by you or INZ about Candace Owens from those representing or assisting her with her request for a special direction that she be granted a visa;*
- 3) All information provided to INZ or you from Candace Owens or her representatives;*
- 4) All information about Candace Owens received by you or INZ from other NZ government departments;*
- 5) All information about Candace Owens you or INZ received from 3rd parties outside government.'*

You will be aware that on 19 December 2024, my office advised you that we had partially transferred parts 2, 3, 4 and 5, as it relates to items held by Immigration New Zealand (INZ), to INZ to provide a response under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

On 29 January 2025, you were advised that an extension is required to make a decision on your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations were necessary as such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit. I am pleased to advise that I am now in a position to respond.

My office has undertaken a records search and identified the following documents in scope of your request:

#	Description
1.	Email - Case for AMOI's consideration Dated – 6 December 2024
2.	Free Speech Union - CANDACE OWENS FARMER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DIRECTION Dated – 29 November 2024-5 December 2024
3.	Candace Owens: Appeal letter to Australian Immigration Minister Dated – 5 December 2024

4.	Free Speech Union - CANDACE OWENS FARMER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DIRECTION Dated – 29 November 2024-2 December 2024
5.	Free Speech Union - CANDACE OWENS FARMER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DIRECTION Dated – 29 November 2024-2 December 2024
6.	Free Speech Union - CANDACE OWENS FARMER REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DIRECTION Dated – 29 November 2024
7.	FW_ Free Speech Union - CANDACE OWENS FARMER _ REQUEST FOR SPECIAL DIRECTION Dated – 29 November 2024-2 December 2024
8.	Candace Owens: Appeal letter to Australian Immigration Minister Dated – 5 December 2024
9.	Immigration Ministerial intervention request - Candace Owens Farmer Dated – 12 December 2024
10.	FARMER Candace Owens– letters Dated – 11 December 2024
11.	Candace Owens - AMOI decision Dated – 12 December 2024
12.	Candace Owens - media lines - Due 10am 12/11/2024 [<i>Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i)</i>] Dated – 11 - 12 December 2024
13.	Free Speech Union - Immigration New Zealand follows Australia’s appalling example Dated – 27 November
14.	Candace Owens barred from entry into New Zealand. Dated – 28 November 2024

Additionally, I have decided to provide a summary of my communications with the Free Speech Union that fall within scope of your request, in accordance with section 16(e) of the Act:

Date	Summary
27 November 2024, 9:11PM	Jonathan Ayling texted me raising concerns regarding INZ’s decision to bar Candace Owens and requested a meeting to discuss the matter further.
27 November 2024, 10:11PM	I responded to Mr Ayling via text message asking if we can speak by phone in the first instance. I also confirmed that I have yet to receive an intervention request from Candace Owens.
28 November 2024, 9:32AM	I texted Mr Ayling asking if I can give him a call back after missing a call from him. He subsequently responded with a confirmation.
28 November 2024, 1:01PM	During a phone call, FSU advised me of Ms Owens’ original application having been declined and on what legal basis, including INZ reliance on the decision by Australian government that would be appealed.

2 December 2024, 12:42PM

I advised FSU via phone call that if I were to engage with FSU on Ms Owens' matter, having received the Ministerial intervention request they filed on her behalf as stated above, I would need to be satisfied that they have received Ms Owens' authority to act on her behalf.

I have decided to withhold some information in accordance with the following sections of the Act:

- 6(c), as making the information available would likely prejudice the maintenance of the law,
- 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,
- 9(2)(g)(ii), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of such Ministers, members of organisations, officers, and employees from improper pressure or harassment; and
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal privilege.

Some information has also been marked as out of scope or duplicates as indicated in the appendix. These pages have been omitted from the final pack for ease of use.

I am satisfied that these withholdings are not outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

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.

Ngā mihi nui,



Hon Chris Penk
Associate Minister of Immigration