



Ref: ESOIA434

Andrew P  
FYI

By email: [fyi-request-30384-3dd64749@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-30384-3dd64749@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Andrew,

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, acknowledged on 17 March in which you requested the following information:

- *Communications between Minister Erica Stanford and Minister David Seymour, as well as their respective offices. The communications requested are from March 3 to March 11, 2025, and include, but are not limited to, emails, texts, and correspondence exchanged via communication applications such as WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Microsoft Teams, and Slack. Communications from staff are only included if the staff are employed by the Department of Internal Affairs.*

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

My office advised you that your request would require significant research and collation and was and as such, may be declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. You were invited to refine your request on 26 March, and on April 1, 2025, you refused to refine your original request.

My response to your request is detailed below:

Members of this office regularly communicate with Minister Seymour and/or his Office on a large number of matters. Your request is broad in scope covering multiple channels, including emails, texts, and correspondence exchanged via WhatsApp, Signal, Telegram, Microsoft Teams, and Slack. Identifying all relevant correspondence would require manually reviewing a significant volume of communications, which would involve substantial collation and research.

A keyword search of one of my staff members email boxes identified 40 emails potentially in scope. Requiring my six staff members employed by the Department of Internal Affairs to identify communications through multiple channels of communication to identify any correspondence with staff would require significant time and prevent them from undertaking their day-to-day role, and I do not believe it is in the public interest for staff time to be diverted in this way.

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested; I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the OIA. I would encourage you to send a new request for information with a narrower scope, such as a keyword or specific individuals.

Thank you again for your request. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E Stanford', written in a cursive style.

Hon Erica Stanford  
**Minister of Education**