

10 August 2012

Alex Harris

Via email: fyi-request-451-048e3134@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Harris

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2012 asking for a copy of the Statistics New Zealand submission to the Law Commission's review of the Official Information Act and all drafts, advice, and internal communications (including emails) relating to that submission.

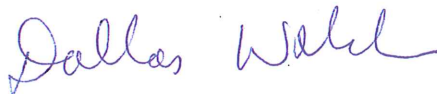
The Law Commission has informed us that all submissions on the review of the Official Information Act are to be published on its website in the week beginning 13 August 2012. I am therefore refusing the part of your request that relates to the department's submission under section 18(d) on the grounds that this information will soon be publicly available.

I am refusing your request for any drafts, advice or internal communications relating to the submission under section 9(2)(g)(i) on the grounds of maintaining the effective conduct of public affairs by allowing for officials to debate and accept or reject particular approaches in a free and frank manner, without being concerned that early and untested opinions could be made publicly available.

There are no overriding public interest reasons that support the release of the information withheld.

Under the Official Information Act you have the right, by way of complaint to an Ombudsman, to seek a review of any of the department's decisions above.

Yours sincerely



Dallas Welch (Mrs)
Deputy Government Statistician