



14 March 2017

Mark Hanna
FYI

Dear Mark

Thank you for your further correspondence of 21 February 2017. You asked:

- 1. Please clarify for me why it was not reasonably practicable to release this document to me earlier than late in the afternoon on the final day of the allowable 20 working days. A timeline of events associated with processing this request may be helpful here, if it is possible for one to be provided.*
- 2. Please tell me the nature of the document that has been withheld, and its relevance to my request. For example, was it an email from a lawyer employed by NZ Police to a client, regarding when it is appropriate to request proof of eligibility under s12(1) of the Official Information Act?*
- 3. Under s23(1)(c), please provide a written statement explaining the reasons for the decision to withhold the document that was discovered to be within the scope of my request.*

Question 1

I attach a timeline associated with the file for your previous information request. Some parts of this document have been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to protect the privacy of natural persons and 9(2)(h) to preserve legal professional privilege.

By way of background, in January 2017 NZ Police received 855 requests for information that were managed under the provisions of the OIA. We strive to answer requests within the statutory timeframes and sooner than the prescribed 20 working days where possible. However the management of multiple requests at any one time can stretch resources. Many requests are complex and challenging. Requests that have an element of urgency are prioritised. Police also has a mandatory review process for many OIAs. This process must be completed before the response can be sent.

Questions 2 and 3

The document that was withheld was internal legal advice from a Police lawyer. The content of that advice constitutes information that can be withheld under s9(2)(h) of the OIA.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision if you are not satisfied with the way I have responded to your request.

Yours sincerely

T McMahon
Ministerial Services