



20 February 2017

Dr Robert Shaw
fyi-request-5243-db3bf332@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2016/17-0256

Dear Dr Shaw

Official Information Act request relating to Preparation for Trump Administration

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet received on 23 January 2017. You requested the following:

*“Has the Cabinet or particular Ministers had specific advice from officials on the effect of the Trump administration?
Have any recent Cabinet papers considered the effect of Trump? If so might I please request those papers”.*

We have interpreted the timeframe of your request to be from 9 November 2016 (in NZ), being the date the result of the United States election was announced, to the date your request was received (23 January 2017).

The only information identified as relevant to your request is advice provided in briefings to the Prime Minister by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, in order to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. Those briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 6(a) as the making available of that information would be likely *“to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand”*;
- Section 6(b), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of another country (or their agencies) or any international organisation;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to *“maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials”*; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to *“maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty”*.

Where the information has been withheld under section 9, no public interest in releasing the withheld information has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding it.

Your request has not been transferred to any other government agency. It contains information held by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) only. Other government agencies may have provided advice to their Ministers that DPMC does not hold. A list of those agencies is available at <https://www.govt.nz/organisations/>.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Scott', with a horizontal line underneath the name.

John Scott
Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Policy