

12 MAY 2017

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Website [www.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archives.govt.nz)

[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Ross Francis

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Dear Mr Francis

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982. You have asked:

- Can records be transferred to Archives NZ for any reason, and does a reason for transfer have to be provided by the agency transferring records to Archives?
- Has any public information or records pertaining to the Peter Ellis case been transferred to Archives NZ? If so, are such records easily accessible?
- Please provide me with all copies of public information or records held by Archives NZ regarding the Peter Ellis case.

Records are transferred to Archives New Zealand in accordance with the Public Records Act 2005 (PRA), and the relevant Disposal Authority for each public office, usually 25 years after their creation. Section 42 of the PRA also allows Archives New Zealand to take deposits of records that are not public records, e.g., Minister's records.

Disposal is a general archival term covering actions that include transferring the records to Archives New Zealand, destroying records that do not have enduring value, or transferring them to another authorised organisation. The disposal authority provides permission to take these actions, and is issued following an evaluative process called appraisal.

Disposal Authorities can be viewed online through our online finding aid, Archway ([www.archway.archives.govt.nz](http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz)) by clicking through to the Disposal Authorities tab on the left-hand side.

Access to records held by Archives New Zealand is determined by an instrument known as the Access Authority, and is managed by the controlling agency. The controlling agency is the public office that created, or transferred the records, and includes any successor to that public office.

A search of our public holdings has been undertaken. There are two listings on Archway for political papers that relate to Peter Ellis:

- Political Papers of Rt. Hon. Sir Douglas Graham, KNZM [Archives reference: AEQS 24402 W5826 32, Correspondence regarding Peter Ellis case (R23518733)]
- Political Papers of Dr Don Brash, MP [Archives reference: AAKW 7812 W5105 35, Attorney-General – Ellis, Peter Hugh McGregor (R14984393)]

Access restrictions may be in place for these records as they may contain official documents (refer to Cabinet Circular CO (05) 9). Before permission to view these records can be granted, they will need to be vetted for official documents, and the depositor liaised with, in accordance with section 42 of the PRA. The final access decision rests with the depositor. Should you wish to apply to gain access to these records, please contact our Research Services team and quote the above references [research.archives@dia.govt.nz](mailto:research.archives@dia.govt.nz).

Archives New Zealand has accepted transfers of records from the New Zealand Police and the Ministry of Justice for the time period relevant to the Mr Ellis case. However, due to the Access Authorities in place, any requests for information about the records that make up these transfers will need to be directed to the New Zealand Police and the Ministry of Justice as the controlling agencies. This is because the lists of records are records themselves and therefore subject to the same restrictions agreed to in the Access Authorities. Contact details are below:

Police National Headquarters: [Archives.request@police.govt.nz](mailto:Archives.request@police.govt.nz).

Ministry of Justice: Manager, Knowledge and Information Services, Ministry of Justice, Private Box 180, Wellington.

I hope this information is of use to you.

Yours sincerely



**Marilyn Little**  
Chief Archivist