

24th July 2017



Gael Wright

Email: fyi-request-6100-b9693965@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Gael

Official Information Act (OIA) Request

We received your email dated Friday 21st July 2017. We respond below to two additional comments in your response (your text in bold) which we address below:

- a) the data (scores) must be held in electronic format (databases or spreadsheets). The HRC can simply make the unedited source data available (spreadsheets). If it were on a database then presumably some simple lookups could be used to produce the data in a few minutes.***

For the reasons stated in the original reply to your request, we are not in a position to provide you with our complete data set in light of the legislation noted below and our need to:

- i) 9 (2) (a) protect the privacy of natural persons,

And

- ii) 9 (2) (ba) (i): protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

And

- iii) 9 (2) (g) (i) 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; or

- b) Note : the HRC has a stated aspirations goal of transparency yet it has so far been reluctant to assist the first FOI request made to it. Simply citing the number of data points requested is disingenuous if the data is held in electronic format.***

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We do aim to be transparent whilst maintaining our responsibilities as noted in the above legislation. We are not reluctant to assist, and manage a number of OIAs providing information to address the queries raised.

We would invite you to meet with us to discuss the questions that you wish to answer as that may assist to refine your request and allow us to answer it. Unless the request is significantly refined, we may have to refuse your request on the grounds of substantial collation under section 18(f) of the OIA or impose a charge. HRC staff would be available to discuss the following options with you:

- a) Understanding your specific requirements, and refining the scope of your request to (for example) a particular set of information for a particular researcher or research group, or data from a panel or year and/or
- b) Reviewing the possible work involved within the scope of your refined request and therefore assisting the HRC to consider the charges it may need to assign in order to respond to your request, under sections 18A(1)(a) and 15 of the Act.

We invite you to contact us to discuss the above options with you. We will then be in a position to determine whether we need to extend the timeframe for responding to you (currently 31 July).

Please note that if we don't hear from you by Thursday 27 July your request will be refused under section 18(f) of the Act, on the ground of substantial collation.

Yours sincerely



Professor Kathryn McPherson
Chief Executive