

9 February 2018

A. Tait
fyi-request-7115-f1224663@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear A. Tait

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 14 January 2018 requesting the following:

- documents regarding the development of census questions covering sexuality or gender identity.
- documents regarding the decision not to include said questions in the 2018 census.
- communications (e.g. emails, memos, discussion papers etc.) between the executive leadership team, including those with other Statistics NZ staff, Government Ministers and other government departments regarding the development of said questions or the decision not to include said questions in the 2018 census

Documents that fall within scope of your request are attached to this response.

I should note that the final sign off on the content for the 2018 was made verbally. This can be seen in the attached correspondence, however for reference the process for sign off has been outlined below:

- The 2018 Census content team recommended the same variables as were included in the 2017 Census Test, to be collected in the 2018 Census.
- In-person briefings were initially held with Denise McGregor (General Manager - 2018 Census), then Teresa Dickinson (Deputy Chief Executive and Government Statistician – Insights and Statistics) and then Liz MacPherson (Government Statistician), presenting the recommendations from the internal content report.
- Ms MacPherson had some reservations over the exclusion of sexual orientation on the basis of the statistical grounds presented to her. Consequently the 2018 Census programme carried out a full reassessment of the feasibility of including a question covering sexual orientation on the 2018 Census forms.
- After the reassessment, the final recommendation was to not include a question on sexual orientation.
- Final recommendations were then presented to The Government Statistician, who provided verbal sign off.

A number of redactions have been made in the documents supplied, where content was out of scope of your request, or for various reasons under the Official Information Act:

info@stats.govt.nz
toll-free 0508 525 525
stats.govt.nz

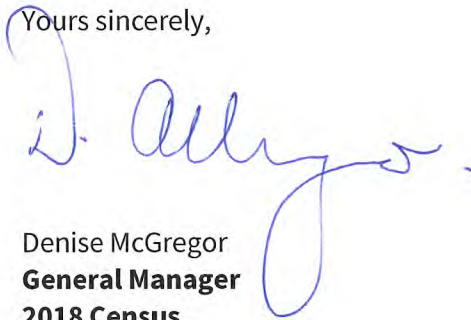
HP House
8 Gilmer Terrace
PO Box 2922
Wellington 6140

- where appropriate the details of officials have been redacted under 9(2)(g)(ii) of the Act
- where appropriate the details of external individuals have been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Act
- to protect their identity, the demographic breakdowns of individuals involved in the testing have been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Act
- in a very small number of places, comments have been redacted under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
- legal opinion and advice has been redacted under section 6(c) of the Act.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of this response to your request.

Stats NZ intends to publish its response to your request made under the Act on the Stats NZ website. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Consistent with the Act, publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and helps promote balanced public debate.

Yours sincerely,



Denise McGregor
General Manager
2018 Census