



23 MAR 2018

Ryan S

Email: fyi-request-7366-d58a9a46@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ryan,

I refer to your e-mail dated 3 March 2018, made via the FYI website, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (**the Act**), the following information:

"The weekly briefings you have received for your portfolios for the past 3 weeks (Civil Defence, Commerce consumer affairs, Associate Immigration)."

This response relates to the request for information in the Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Associate Immigration portfolios.

The information requested is being withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

The need to withhold weekly briefings arises not so much from their content as from the context in which they are generated. The information is collected and reported under time pressure. An atmosphere of confidentiality is necessary to ensure that Ministers have time to receive and consider such briefings before being obliged to share them with a wider audience.

I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek a review of this response by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman has an online complaints form at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/make-a-complaint/make-a-complaint-now/make-a-complaint-online-now.

A complaint can also be made by e-mail at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by post at:
The Ombudsman
PO Box 10 152
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kris Faafoi', written over a white background.

Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Associate Minister of Immigration