



6 August 2018

CABINET OFFICE

Simon Ewing-Jarvie
fyi-request-8375-094cda54@requests.fyi.org.nz

Reference: OIA-2018/19-0045

Dear Simon

Official Information Act request: Cabinet agenda

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 24 July 2018. You requested:

- *a copy of the agenda for the Cabinet Meeting held on 23 July 2018.*
- *a copy of the Cabinet Paper presented at the same meeting relating to the extension of mandate for New Zealand Defence Force personnel deployed as part of the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai, Egypt.*

Cabinet agendas form an essential, practical tool to inform and assist collective discussion. The Cabinet Office has maintained a long-held view that the release of agendas would risk undermining the conventions of collective responsibility and confidentiality of Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings. For that reason, I am withholding the requested agenda under section 9(2)(f)(ii) of the Act.

In making my decision on the particular information in this case, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

In relation to the second part of your request, official information relating to any NZDF deployments is a matter for the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Defence. As such, I have decided under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act to transfer your request to the Rt Hon Winston Peters.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Michael Webster'.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet