



12 FEB 2019

Ref: DOIA 1819-081

Matthew Hooton  
[fyi-request-9303-8fded4f7@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9303-8fded4f7@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Hooton

I refer to your email of 21 December 2018 to Hon Phil Twyford, Minister of Housing and Urban Development, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*...all information held by government on what was said and transpired at the meeting. This includes any recording that were made, and also information held in the minds of officials. You will be aware that the Ombudsman has previously ruled that "information" includes information held in the minds of officials.*

*If no information is held by government on what was said or transpired at the meeting other than that already released to me, please advise under the OIA whether or not some sort of internal inquiry has been launched to explore how it could be that officials could hold a briefing with the private sector on a key government policy and yet hold no information on what the private sector or other officials said at the briefing other than a pre-prepared PowerPoint presentation.*

On 9 January 2019, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) for response.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some further information about the 'Group Home Builders - Market briefing'. This briefing was an opportunity to provide information to parties interested in the Group Home Builders Initiative by way of a presentation. This presentation was provided to you in response to your 5 November 2018 request. There was an opportunity for questions and answers at the end of the briefing and these were documented and were also provided to you in that response.

The format of the briefing was that of a market pitch and informative briefing to stakeholders, rather than a meeting involving table discussions and note taking. In addition, some officials did not attend for the full briefing and only attended for those parts that were applicable to their work area.

We have contacted the officials who attended the briefing and requested that they provide their recollections of the briefing, above and beyond the information provided to you in the response to your 5 November 2018 request. This information is attached to this response.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Anderson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bruce Anderson  
General Manager, Allocation and Compliance  
KiwiBuild  
Housing and Urban Development

**Recollections of officials who attended the Group Home Builders – Market Briefing, 30 October 2018**

*"I only vaguely recall this meeting, other than what was presented. I was at a table with several people from a smaller group builder company. I didn't keep notes as it was a meeting about KiwiBuild and I was there to present on the proposed UDA and to answer questions on it. But no questions were asked that I recall."*

*"I was only there for the Minister's speaking slot. From memory he talked about:*

- The important role that group home builders played in NZ's past*
- KiwiBuild being a partnership with the private sector, and wanting group home builders to be part of that*
- The KiwiBuild delivery channels*
- Some of the barriers to affordable housing (uncertainty, boom and bust cycles, lack of access to land) and how KiwiBuild can help overcome those barriers (underwrites, multi-year contracts, UDA powers, HNZ and Land for Housing land) and transform the industry (e.g provide certainty so that firms can invest in training and new technology)*

*The Minister also thanked everyone for their attendance."*

*"...it [the presentation] was an information giving session, with the purpose being to provide the builders present with an explanation of the roles of the three agencies they'd be working with (HLC, HNZ and MBIE)."*

*"No material personal recollection other than a few positive discussions with existing HLC build partners about the future operations."*

*"...I facilitated the meeting but said nothing much of note other than introducing the speakers.*

*...The speakers pretty much stuck to the script in the slides.*

*Discussion related to how the [govt] would deal with 5 year commitments [if] the govt changed to which Stephen B responded we [were] working through that but there are precedents eg partnership schools which we could look to.*

*One if the participants also [raised] the issue of land availability being key to getting more houses built."*

*"In addition to the presentations given by various people, a copy of which has already been provided, I can recall the following interactions:*

*I spoke to a developer who owned land and also built and they wanted to know how to engage with the KiwiBuild Unit. So I introduced him to Murray Smith.*

*There were question and answer sessions throughout the briefing. There are a couple of them that I can recall.*

*A question was asked by a developer about how their KiwiBuild dwellings would be marketed. I can't recall the answer that was given but I do remember that I thought it didn't really answer his concern. So at the end of the session I sought him out to explain that through the KiwiBuild website, all the developments would be listed and searchable by potential buyers. There would be links from the KiwiBuild website to the developer's own website. We had a brief discussion about that and he thanked me for the clarification.*

*Another developer asked about whether any decisions had been made about what contract template and process were going to be used by KiwiBuild. He noted that the current process was difficult, but so too was the Housing New Zealand one. I do not recall the exact answer given to him but assurances were made that the contract process would be streamlined.*

*I had some urgent matters to attend to during the other breaks in the session so didn't get a chance to interact much with the participants.*

*While there were clearly more questions asked than those detailed above, I cannot recall any of the details of them."*