



30 JAN 2019

Mr Brent Burcher  
[fyi-request-9419-7fca5594@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9419-7fca5594@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Burcher

On 17 January 2019, the Ministry received a transfer of your request from the Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Can I please have a copy of the letter from Deaf Aotearoa's CE to Brian Coffey. It was a lengthy letter, around 15 pages. This letter, I understand was about the NZSL Week 2019/NZSL Board and the concerns that Deaf Aotearoa had.*
- *Could I also please have a copy of Brian's response to that letter.*

There has been a careful and considerable amount of work undertaken by the New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) Board, the Office for Disability Issues and others on NZSL Week. NZSL week is an important week for celebrating NZSL within the community of sign language users as well as promoting the language to all New Zealanders.

The Ministry is unable to provide you with the document titled '*Letter from Deaf Aotearoa*', dated 9 August 2018 and Brian Coffey's response to this letter as it is subject to an obligation of confidence and, if released, could prejudice the supply of similar information in the future. The greater public interest is in ensuring that such information can continue to be supplied. As such, your request is refused in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Official Information Act.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Elisabeth Brunt  
**General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services**