

# Hon Grant Robertson



MP for Wellington Central

Minister of Finance

Minister for Sport and Recreation

Associate Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

12 MAR 2019

Matthew Hooton  
fyi-request-9548-d539bed0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Matthew Hooton

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 9 February 2019. You requested:

*"NewstalkZB reports you as saying, in the context of whether or not there is time for policy work to be completed and legislation drafted for a Capital Gains Tax (CGT) to be legislated for before the next election, that "We have been talking with the IRD officials and we believe the time is there."*

*It may surprise the public that the Government has been talking with IRD officials on this topic since the Tax Working Group (TWG) has only just completed its work, its report has not been released publicly and the Government says it has not made even a high-level, in-principle decision on implementing a CGT.*

*Therefore, under the OIA, I request all official information on the talks you refer to. This includes, but is not limited to, information on the timelines for developing operational procedures for a CGT, finalising policy, drafting legislation and parliamentary processes associated with a CGT. It also includes, but is not limited to, emails, briefing notes etc between you and/or your office and the IRD on such matters, and written notes of verbal conversations involving you, your staff or officials.*

*I also request any advice you have received from the Cabinet Office, SSC or other relevant authority on whether or not it is appropriate for officials to be doing policy-implementation work of this kind ahead of the Government making a decision-in-principle to proceed with a CGT."*

I have decided under section 15A of the Official Information Act to extend the time limit for deciding on your request by an additional 30 working days. The new due date for responding to your request is 11 April 2019.

The extension is required because of the consultations needed to make a decision on your request. This extension will also apply to the time limit for transferring your request, should this become relevant.

Notwithstanding this extension, I undertake to make a decision on your request as soon as reasonably practicable.

In the interim I can confirm that the government has not made any decisions to implement the recommendations of the Tax Working Group (TWG). However as I said in my statement there have been discussions of the timeline for the TWG process. That is not a discussion about whether to implement a particular tax, but rather on the timeline outlined, as early as before the election in 2017.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review this decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Robertson', written in a cursive style.

Hon Grant Robertson  
**Minister of Finance**