



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

31 July 2023

Garth Mathieson
garth@gmlaw.nz

45 Pipitea Street, Thorndon, Wellington 6011
PO Box 805, Wellington
Phone +64 04 495 7200
Email: OIA@dia.govt.nz
dia.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Garth

Your Official Information Act 1982 request reference OIA 2324-0043

I am responding to your email of 23 July 2023 to the Office of the Ombudsman which you copied to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs outlining a complaint on our decision of 19 July 2023 and requesting the following additional information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) by 1 August 2023:

"I request that the 15 unnamed people's supporting letters and all supporting documents not already published... be disclosed to me..."

I consider that the above request is new, and the information requested does not fall within the scope of your original request of 6 December 2022 to Te Tari Taiwhenua.

I apologise, but Te Tari Taiwhenua will be unable to reply to your request by 1 August 2023. The information falling within the scope of your new request (namely, the 15 people's supporting letters as well as Hon Nanaia Mahuta's replies to these letters) is held by the current Minister of Local Government (the Minister), and it will take time for my team to work with the Minister's office to locate all of this information.

As this information is held by the Minister's office, I am requesting a full transfer of responsibility for this request to the Minister's office under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. This section of the Act enables transfer when the information to which the request relates is more closely connected with the functions of another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or of a local authority.

Please be aware that I will respond to your request as soon as reasonably practicable, and no later than 20 working days after the day the transfer letter is received by the Minister's office.

Please contact Rachel Chrystall at Rachel.Chrystall@dia.govt.nz if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Nāku noa, nā

Jeremy Cauchi
Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability