



Reference: OIA-2017/18-0291

12 February 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request relating to refugee housing

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 15 January 2018. You requested:

" All emails between the Prime Minister's Office (both PMO and DPMC) and the Ministry of Social Development since the formation of the new government in relation to the housing of refugees and their families."

As the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not have visibility over emails sent by the Prime Minister's Office, that aspect of your request was transferred to the Office of the Prime Minister.

A search of the DPMC database has not located any emails to or from the Ministry of Social Development that fall within the scope of your request. Accordingly, I must refuse this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The only email from DPMC to the Office of the Prime Minister identified as potentially relevant to your request was one which attached advice in a briefing to the Prime Minister by DPMC's Policy Advisory Group. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence, in order to support her in her role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. The email and attached briefing note are withheld in their entirety, including the title of the briefing, under the following sections of the Official Information Act:

- Section 9(2)(f)(ii) as withholding the information is necessary to *"maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility."*
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) as withholding the information is necessary to *"maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;"*
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) as withholding the information is necessary to *"maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty."*

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

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

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

Yours sincerely



Anne Shaw
Director, Office of the Chief Executive