



CABINET OFFICE

24 October 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0295

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request: [REDACTED] Bright-line test

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 26 September 2024. You requested:

I would like to please ask for a list of current govt politicians who, since the change was made to the Bright-line test to reduce the years of ownership required before not needing to pay tax have sold a property.

I would also like to know the addresses of these properties with the amount they paid for them and the amount it was then sold for.

If you cannot assist please direct my email to the department or person who can assist.

Response to your request

I have interpreted your request regarding *current government politicians* as being for current Ministers and Parliamentary Under-Secretaries (PUSs) on the basis you have directed your request to the Cabinet Office and the Act does not apply to other members of Parliament.

The Cabinet Office does not maintain a record of all properties sold by Ministers and PUSs or the specific details you have requested i.e. addresses and prices. I have therefore decided to refuse your request under section 18 (g) of the Act on the basis the information is not held by the Cabinet Office. I have no grounds for believing the information is held by, or more closely connected with the functions of another department.

The Cabinet Office holds some information relevant to your request. The Cabinet Office, on behalf on the Prime Minister, supports Ministers and PUSs in identifying and managing potential conflicts of interest. As part of this process, individual Ministers and PUSs may note their property interests and this information may be updated when properties are sold. I have decided to withhold the information the Cabinet Office holds relevant to your request under the following sections of the Act:

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1. section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
2. section 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect the supply of similar information in the future
3. section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
4. section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion

This approach to requests for conflicts management information has been taken by successive administrations over many years because it is in the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess information about conflicts of interest and provide advice to Ministers on how to resolve them on a confidential basis.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

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 monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet