

Hon Judith Collins

Attorney General
Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Space
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the
Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques



Amanda Murtagh

By email: fyi-request-25184-223dd6b6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amanda

OFFICIAL INFORMATION REQUEST - OUTSTANDING OIA'S

Thank you for your email dated 14 December 2023.

You have asked "when a Minister of the Crown resigns or changes, what is the law relating to outstanding OIA's. Is the incoming Minister required by law to answer the previous Minister's OIA requests".

The Cabinet Manual 2023 notes that sometimes a request for official information received by a previous Minister or administration will not have been responded to before the appointment of a new Minister or administration. In these cases, the request for information continues and the new Minister must respond to the request in accordance with the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

The Manual suggests the Minister should assess whether they, or any others who are subject to the Act, hold the information requested. If the Minister does not hold the information but believes it to be held by another agency or Minister, then the Minister should transfer the request under section 14 of the Act. If the information requested is not held by any Minister or other agency then the request can be refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Hon Judith Collins KC
Attorney-General