



16 February 2024

Ref: DOIA 2324-1494

Stephen Prendergast

Email: fyi-request-25439-068bd068@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Stephen Prendergast

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2024 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

In response to DIA 2324 0972 you supplied a heavily redacted version of an email thread titled RAL Progress Update. As the redactions were identified as Out of Scope for the nature of that request, I am now requesting an unredacted version of those documents on the basis that they describe events which have already occurred and are in the public domain, and the matters discussed have a high degree of public interest given the taxpayer funding involved and the significant impact on the regional economy.

Please find attached the documentation relevant to your request.

Please note some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Michael Docherty

Acting Manager Communications

Kānoa – Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

