



CABINET OFFICE

16 December 2016

Dr WGR Robert Harrison
fyi-request-5011-2e125131@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Dr WGR Robert Harrison

Information request: Number of cabinet ministers with university degrees and other qualifications

Our reference: OIA-2016/17-0208

1 On 24 November 2016 the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet ('DPMC') received a request from you under the Official Information Act 1982 ('OIA') for information relating to Ministers and their qualifications. Specifically, you requested:

- a) *a breakdown of all cabinet ministers (in & out of cabinet), and ALL their qualifications achieved at university or polytechnics, or other education institutes.*
- b) *in addition to a) the institute that the cabinet minister studied at*
- c) *of all the lawyers in Cabinet, a list of the names of those with LLB/law qualifications, as well as those still holding a practicing certificate.*
- d) *in addition to c) a list of all cabinet ministers who are QCs, and if they hold a public practice in addition to their ministerial duties. This can also apply to c).*
- e) *of all the medical doctors in cabinet, a list of the names of those with MBChB/medication qualifications, as well as those still holding a practicing certificate.*
- f) *if anyone meeting e) is a doctor, but not holding a practicing certificate, and is still being call "Dr" as a honorific title, the rational why they are being called "Dr" when clearly they are not a "Dr" anymore as they are not practicing.*
- g) *the number and names of cabinet ministers who had had business qualifications (BCom and alike) awarded on them, and is in a finance/economic portfolio, as well as the number and names of cabinet ministers who have this responsibility, and don't have business qualifications.*

h) *The number & names of cabinet ministers who have Masters & PhD degrees*

i) *any advice, recommendations, correspondence requested/sought/received in relation to ministers being appointed by the prime minister based on skills and qualifications that said minister can/could provide.*”

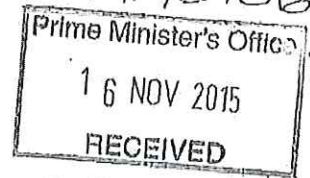
- 2 With regard to the qualifications and experience of each Minister in relation to the portfolios they hold, biographical information for Ministers, including details of their qualifications and experience is available on the Beehive website at www.beehive.govt.nz. You can search each Minister individually. Hon Maggie Barry’s biography can be found on the National Party website at: <https://maggiebarry.national.org.nz/about>.
- 3 I am therefore refusing parts (a) – (h) of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information is publicly available. To the extent that the information you have requested is not publicly available, I do not consider that it is official information as it relates to personal information that Ministers hold in their private capacities.
- 4 In response to part (i) of your request. There are two other OIA requests that the Cabinet Office has received that could be categorised as ‘*correspondence received in relation to ministers being appointed by the Prime Minister based on skills and qualifications that said Minister can/could provide*’. Those requests are enclosed. I have withheld some information in these documents under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- 5 I note that Chapter 2 of the Cabinet Manual may be of interest to you. This chapter sets out the process for the appointment of Ministers and the allocation of portfolios. In particular, paragraph 2.30 states that the Prime Minister determines the allocation of portfolios to Ministers, taking into account various matters (including political considerations, particularly in a coalition context). There are many factors that may be taken into account during this process, including (but not limited to) the skills, talents and particular interests of the members of Parliament to be appointed as Ministers.
- 6 Paragraph 2.95 of the Cabinet Manual states that because Ministers are expected to devote their time and talent to their official business, they “must not take any active part in the day-to-day management or operation of any business”. Provided no conflict of interest arises, Ministers are not required to dissolve any professional partnerships, allow practising certificates to lapse, or dispose of a business.
- 7 The Cabinet Manual is available online at www.cabinetmanual.cabinetoffice.govt.nz.
- 8 Please note that you have the right to complain about this decision to the Office of the Ombudsmen under s 28(3) of the OIA.

Yours sincerely



Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

A1173706



Tauranga 3110

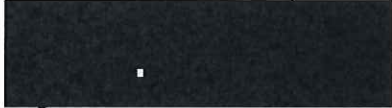
Mr Key
Prime Minister
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Dear Mr Key,

Ministers

Under The Official Information Act, would you please give me the names of the Ministers their portfolios, and the Ministers qualifications and experience pertaining to their responsibility.

Yours Sincerely



Anna Fleming [DPMC]

From: Anna Fleming [DPMC]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 May 2016 4:41 p.m.
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: OIA request [REDACTED]

[UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for your email. I will add your request for the additional information below to your current request.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further comments or queries.

Kind regards
Anna Fleming



Anna Fleming
Legal and Constitutional Adviser
Cabinet Office
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Anna.Fleming@dpmc.govt.nz
DDI: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 18 May 2016 12:08 p.m.
To: Anna Fleming [DPMC] <Anna.Fleming@dpmc.govt.nz>
Subject: OIA request [REDACTED]

Hi Anna,

I believe part of my OIA request has been transferred to you. Is it possible to extend my request?

- If so, I would like to receive information regarding why the Consumer Affairs portfolio was given to: Judith Tizard, Heather Roy, John Boscawen, Simon Power, Chris Tremain, and Paul Goldsmith.

Regards,
[REDACTED]

Anna Fleming [DPMC]

From: *OIA <OIA@mbie.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 19 May 2016 9:48 a.m.
To: *OIA
Subject: FW: Enquiry from Consumer Protection website [UNCLASSIFIED]

For part-transfer as highlighted below.

From: Consumer Protection Information
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2016 1:59 p.m.
To: *OIA
Subject: FW: Enquiry from Consumer Protection website [UNCLASSIFIED]

Please see the below OIA request

Regards,
Justine Kneale
Client Service Advisor
Service Centre (Southern)
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
Hikina Whakatutuki - Lifting to Make Successful

Phone: [REDACTED] | International: [REDACTED]
www.consumerprotection.govt.nz

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 12 May 2016 1:48 p.m.
To: Consumer Protection Information
Subject: Enquiry from Consumer Protection website

To whom it may concern,

Pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, I would like to request the following:

- Reports relating to consumer law and potential reform during the Clark government of 1998-2008
- Any research completed on consumer laws from this period until the current day
- Any evaluations completed since the current legislation came into force
- Any correspondence, documents or other record of how and why the Consumer Affairs portfolio was given to ACT MP's Heather Roy, and later John Boscawen

Kind regards,
[REDACTED]