

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Energy
Minister of Local Government
Minister of Transport
Minister for Auckland
Deputy Leader of the House



8/04/2024

OIA24-129

James H

By email: fyi-request-25913-042a87e6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

Thank you for your FYI.org request of 27 February 2024 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1986 (the Act):

Can you please send me copies of:

- 1. Letters sent or received between the Minister of Local Government and Secretary for Local Government between 27 November 2023 and 27 February 2024?*
- 2. Text messages (including SMS, WhatsApp and Signal) sent or received between the Minister of Local Government and Secretary for Local Government between 27 November 2023 and 27 February 2024?*

For clarity, I am seeking only letters signed by the Minister or by the Secretary for Local Government. These may be hard copies or digital copies with digital signatures.

There is no information in-scope of the first question in your request. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist.

Please find attached, as **Appendix A**, the information that you requested in your second question.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or via freephone on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Simeon Brown'.

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister of Local Government

Transcript of messages between Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Local Government (HSB) and Paul James, Chief Executive, Department of Internal Affairs (PJ)

Monday 11 December 2023 at 6:23pm

PJ – ‘Minister, after our meeting I looked again at WSE CE redundancy. An OIA release went to the NZ Herald today confirming 6 months redundancy for one of the former CEs (was one of three paid out prior to the election). We think they can pull together a full picture now. The Herald has often run stories some weeks after OIA releases. However, we will alert your adviser, bring together the background material you requested and prepare draft media lines. Happy to discuss. Paul.

HSB – ‘Thanks. Would have been good to have been consulted prior to its release as per no surprises but appreciate being told now. We look forward to receiving the background material.’

PJ – Yes agreed, I’m sorry about that. We should have advised you this afternoon. I understand the office was informed as standard practice, but I don’t think our radar was sharp enough on this or our systems. We will tighten up.

Friday 26 January 2024 at 5:56pm

PJ – ‘Apologies for missing your call Minister. Let me know if you still would like to talk and when suits you. Paul’