



25 October 2019

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Reference: OIA-2019/20-0220

Dear [REDACTED]

**Request relating to costs of investigating allegations against an employee of the Labour Party**

Thank you for your email of 20 October 2019 requesting the following information:

*In Reference to the Labor Parties Sexual Assault Allegations:*

*Please advise if any costs associated with this investigation will be paid for out of Taxpayers generated revenue or will 100% of the cost be paid from the Labor Parties' private finances including but not limited to the fees and costs associated with the appointed Queens Council and staff, Labors Internal review or any other associated costs.*

You indicated that you wanted your request to be treated as a request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I can advise that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not hold any official information relevant to your request. We considered transferring your request to the Office of the Prime Minister. However, only information held in a capacity as a Minister of the Crown is deemed to be official information under the Act. Information that is held by Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern in any other capacity, such as Leader of the New Zealand Labour Party, as a Member of Parliament or as a private individual, is not official information.

Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act on the grounds that the information requested is not held by DPMC and I have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by or more closely connected to another Department, Minister of the Crown, organisation, or local authority.

However, DPMC has been advised by the Office of the Prime Minister that no Government funds have been used for Labour Party investigations relating to sexual assault allegations.

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.

Yours sincerely



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Group**