



CABINET OFFICE

14 March 2023



Ref: OIA-2022/23-0618

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to Correspondence on 14 April 2020 with Stuff's Editor and the Ministry of Health

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), received on 24 February 2023. You requested:

“Question 1 - Did the Prime Minister, any cabinet member or their associate (PM or cabinet secretary/assistant) or member of parliament correspond with Stuff Media's editor/owner/staff on 14 April 2020. If so, could I have copies/details of all the communications – e.g., but not limited to - emails, WhatsApps, Telegram, Signal, texts, phone calls.

Question 2 - Did the Prime Minister, any cabinet member or associate (PM or cabinet secretary/assistant) or member of parliament correspond with the Ministry of Health on 14 April 2020. If so, could I have copies/details of all the communications – e.g., but not limited to - emails, WhatsApps, Telegram, Signal, texts, phone calls.

Could I receive copies of all written communication (including any threads) and details of any phone calls. Also, could you including how many times contact (e.g., how many emails or phone calls) was made on that day.”

On 10 March 2023 we advised that your request, as it related to material related to the Prime Minister, was transferred to the Prime Minister's Office for response.

You also requested any relevant correspondence with the “cabinet secretary/assistant”. We have interpreted this part of your request to be for any relevant correspondence with the Secretary of Cabinet.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

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I can confirm that no correspondence between former Secretary of Cabinet, Michael Webster who held this position on 14 April 2020 and Stuff media or the Ministry of Health has been identified. Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that no such correspondence exists.

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of Cabinet
Cabinet Office