

The Treasury

Material Provided to the Public Inquiry into EQC Information Release

August 2021

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Information Withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified.

Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to sections of the Act under which information has been withheld:

- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [35] 9(2)(g)(ii) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment;
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Reference: T2018/3336 BM-1-7-323

Date: 22 November 2018

To: Minister for Greater Christchurch Regeneration
(Hon Dr Megan Woods)

Deadline: None
(if any)

Aide Memoire: Co-ordination of Ministers with Earthquake Insurance Interests

The purpose of this aide-memoire is to brief you on follow-up actions to support your letter of 3 October 2018 to the Minister of Finance, Minister of Justice and Minister for Courts, Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Minister of Civil Defence, and Minister for Climate Change. That letter was regarding co-ordination across Canterbury earthquake insurance-related work programmes to ensure that the advice Ministers receive, and make decisions on, is coherent, joined up and complete.

When you met officials on Tuesday 30 October, you indicated that you wished to minimise unnecessary overheads, by not setting up new standing committees or meeting schedules, keeping the co-ordination process between Ministers informal, and utilising existing processes, such as Cabinet Committee's, where possible.

No Cabinet Committees include you and all of the other 4 Ministers. Two Cabinet Committees include four of the five participating Ministers - the Cabinet Economic Development Committee includes all Ministers except the Hon Andrew Little, and the Cabinet Priorities Committee contains all Ministers except the Hon Kris Fafoi.

This suggests that meetings between the five Ministers will be on an as-required basis, either for joint briefings on key issues of relevance to all portfolio Ministers, or when a portfolio Minister wants to socialise an issue or set of decisions with colleagues. There potentially may also be "opt-in" meetings that relevant Ministers have the option, but not requirement, to attend. A potential example of this may be meeting to discuss the findings in upcoming Treasury reporting on the results of our current engagement with insurers and other insurance market participants on the state of the property insurance market. We expect this reporting to be in early 2019. We will make a recommendation to you on this once the findings from that engagement are known.

At officials' level, Treasury will continue to work with other agencies to ensure agencies are sighted on each other's work and consulted on each other's advice.

Treasury now has responsibility for providing you with quarterly reporting on the settlement of residential dwelling insurance claims –consolidating information provided by private insurers and Southern Response through Insurance Council New Zealand (ICNZ). It could be useful for you to pass on that briefing information to the relevant Ministers once you have signed it off.

We are in the process of ensuring that the more regular information being provided through the Earthquake Commission, Southern Response and the Greater Christchurch Claims Resolution Service (GCCRS) is consistent with the quarterly update.

This report is for your information and comment. We are next scheduled to discuss insurance issues with you on Tuesday 4 December.

Steve Cantwell, Principal Advisor, Earthquake Commission Policy, [39]

Helen McDonald, Manager, Earthquake Commission Policy, [39]