

Reference: 20210338

6 August 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 21 July 2021. You requested:

I'm seeking all correspondence, briefings, reports, information, meeting times, notes and agendas concerning the Treasury's position that there is no money to recover the evidence required to prove the causation of the first explosion from the underground fan area at the Pike Mine.

This should include but not be restricted to all emails, attachments and google docs since November, 2019 until the current date between the following parties....

Treasury

and

- Finance Minister Grant Robertson*
- Pike Minister Andrew Little*
- Prime Minister's office*
- Rob Egan (FRG)*
- Tony Sutorius (FRG)*
- Anna Osborne (FRG)*
- Sonya Rockhouse (FRG)*
- Rick Durbridge (FRG)*

Also when and why did the Treasury make the decision that there would be no more money to recover the Pike Mine?

Please confirm that I will receive a response within the statutory timeframe of 20 working days.

The Treasury does not have a particular position that there is no money to recover the evidence required to prove the causation of the first explosion from the underground fan area at the Pike Mine. Funding decisions are ultimately the prerogative of Ministers and Cabinet.

Cabinet has to date provided just under \$54 million since 31 January 2018 to the Pike River Recovery Agency (the Agency) to meet the Government's manifesto commitment of supporting the Police investigations into the cause of the tragedy by recovering the Pike River Mine drift to the roof fall. This work was completed in February 2021.

The Agency and the Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry have considered and discounted a Concept Plan for further work to go beyond the drift. The Treasury did not provide any advice on the Concept Plan. The Agency continues to support the Police programme of borehole drilling in the mine workings, to support the Police investigation.

On this basis, I am refusing your request under section 18(g)(i) of the Official Information Act, that the information requested is not held by the Treasury, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nick Carroll". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nick Carroll
Manager, Communities, Learning and Work