



12 June 2019



I refer to your request dated 14 May 2019, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), seeking:

- "1. Any correspondence held by the Ministry of Transport internally that references or relates to the proposal for Stan Semenoff to be appointed to the New Zealand Transport Agency board.*
- 2. The name of any individual or organisation that has communicated with officials within the Ministry of Transport regarding Stan Semenoff and his suitability to be appointed to the New Zealand Transport Agency board.*
- 3. The name of any individuals or organisations that have made representations to officials within the Ministry of Transport relating to Stan Semenoff."*

Applications for Board positions are made to the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry) under an obligation of confidence, as is third-party information about these candidates. This information informs advice to the Minister as to the most qualified candidates available for appointment. The application of qualified candidates, and the appointment of the most qualified candidates to the Board, are results that are in the public interest. To reveal unsuccessful applications, or the names of those that have provided information about them, would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information. As such, the Ministry withholds any and all information that falls within the scope of this request under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act.

You have the right under section 28 of the Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. The address for the Office of the Ombudsman is:

Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Ngaire Best
Manager, Governance and Commercial