

8 November 2021

[REDACTED] Withheld to protect personal privacy
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED] Withheld to protect personal privacy

I refer to your two requests dated 13 October 2021, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), seeking:

“Copies of all Official Information, including but not limited to research, analysis, meeting minutes, and conversation notes which relate to the Ministry of Transport’s decision to:

adopt, or not to adopt, a licence for drone pilots under Part 61 of the Civil Aviation Rules as requested by the industry body UAVNZ and other submitters on the drone integration consultation.”

and

“Copies of all Official Information, including but not limited to research, analysis, meeting minutes, and conversation notes which relate to:

- 1. The Ministry of Transport’s decision to adopt, or not to adopt, an online licence test for drone pilots;*
- 2. The efficacy of simple online testing in ensuring those taking the test retain an adequate level of knowledge.”*

The Ministry of Transport sought feedback on a proposed approach to enhance the New Zealand drone regulatory regime and enable the integration of drones into the civil aviation system during public consultation from 6 April to 4 June 2021. We have taken into consideration the feedback received during consultation and prepared advice for the Minister of Transport. Until a decision on these final policy proposals has been made, we are unable to release this information.

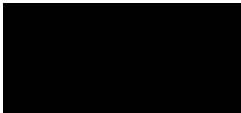
Therefore, I am withholding in full all of the information within scope under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional convention for the time being, which protects the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

I am satisfied that the public interest in releasing the information being withheld under section 9 does not outweigh the reasons for withholding it at this time.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about the withholding and refusing of information. You can email info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry's website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Yours sincerely



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Tom Forster
Manager, Economic Regulation