

17 August 2016

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

OIA request: Alleged fraud at the Ministry of Transport

I refer to your request dated 26 July 2016, pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, seeking the following:

- *What steps has the Ministry taken to recover the taxpayer money that has been misappropriated from the Ministry of Transport?*
- *When was the Minister briefed by the Ministry about the alleged fraud of several hundred thousand dollars from the Ministry?*
- *Please provide any advice or briefings prepared by the Ministry on the alleged fraud.*
- *What background checks were carried out on Joanne Harrison before she was appointed to the role of General Manager Organisational Development?*
- *What background checks were carried out on Joanne Harrison before she was employed by the Ministry?*
- *Please provide the CV supplied by Joanne Harrison for her application for the General Manager position.*

Martin Matthews, then Chief Executive of the Ministry, informed the Minister of Transport of this issue on 26 April 2016.

When Joanne Harrison was employed by the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry conducted the normal recruitment processes, including referee checks.

As you are aware, Joanne Harrison has now been charged by the Serious Fraud Office. The other information relevant to your request is subject to court proceedings and I am therefore refusing the request under section 6(c) of the Official Information Act, which relates to prejudice to the maintenance of the law.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982 to make a complaint to the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
P O Box 10-152
WELLINGTON

Yours sincerely

Peter Mersi
Chief Executive