



Office of the Prime Minister

Prime Minister

Minister for National Security and Intelligence

Minister of Tourism

Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services

21 MAR 2016



Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request Relating to Journalist Contacts Stored in the Prime Minister's Official Cellphone

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 22 February 2016 that asked for:

- *"Which journalists, if any, have you [the Prime Minister] (or your office) shared the number of your current official cellphone with?"*
- *Which journalists, if any, do you [the Prime Minister] have numbers stored for in your current official cellphone?"*

If you have recently upgraded your official phone and not updated its contacts or shared the number with people yet, I am happy to accept this information for your previous official cellphone."

I can confirm that the Prime Minister holds and uses only one cellphone and uses this for all purposes and in all capacities (as a Minister of the Crown, as Leader of the National Party, as a Member of Parliament and in a personal capacity).

For part one of your request, no record is kept by this Office or by the Prime Minister when he, or someone on his behalf, gives the number for his current (or previous) cellphone to someone. Accordingly, this part of your request is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act on the basis that *"that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found."*

For part two of your request, contact details on the Prime Minister's cellphone have been carried across whenever he has been issued a new phone. These contact details may have been entered into the cellphone prior to Rt Hon John Key becoming Prime Minister in 2008. The contacts are held only by name and not by a category that would enable a list of journalists to be generated. To provide a list of journalists entered in the Prime Minister's cellphone would involve a member of staff in this Office going through all the contact names entered in the Prime Minister's cellphone and, to the best of that individual's knowledge, noting down a list of those contacts they believe to be journalists.

The difficulties with this approach would be that any such list created inevitably would be incomplete and inaccurate. As explained above, it is not possible to ascertain whether each contact is official information (i.e. a contact held by the Prime Minister as a Minister of the Crown). Given the difficulties explained above, and taking into account the passage of time since some of the contact details would have been entered, a list of journalists with numbers stored in the Prime Minister's phone does not exist and there is no easy or accurate way to

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generate such a list. Accordingly, this part of your request is also declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act on the basis that *“that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.”*

You are entitled to ask the Ombudsman to review this response under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email (info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Wayne Eagleson
Chief of Staff