



2 May 2018

Ref: OIA 1718-1092

Redacted - Privacy



Dear **Redacted - PI**

Thank you for your email received 5 March 2018 by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

“Any briefing, documentation or communications about the \$4.6 million for the Manea Footprints of Kupe Cultural Heritage and Education Centre, as announced by Shane Jones and Kelvin Davis on February 23rd, sent or received by the Ministry. There has been a proactive release of two Cabinet papers on the Provincial Growth Fund but I am requesting all of the supporting documentation for the project, along with any other relevant documentation etc.”

The Ministry has identified four documents that fall within the scope of your request, identified in the table below. Some information in this briefing has been withheld under the following sections of the OIA:

Section 9(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons

Section 9(2)(b)(i) making available of the information would disclose a trade secret

Section 9(2)(b)(ii) would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplies or who is the subject of the information.

Briefing components	Response	Relevant sections of the Act
Briefing: Regional Growth Initiatives (MYA) – Manea Footprints of Kupe Cultural Heritage and Education Centre	Release in part	Parts of this document have been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii). Parts of Annex One has been withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(i) and 9(2)(b)(ii). Annex Two is released in full.
Briefing: Recommendations for funding from the Regional Growth Initiative Fund and Provincial Growth Fund	Release in part	Parts of the briefing have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) and because the information is outside the scope of the request. Parts of Annexes One, Two and Three have also been withheld as it is outside the scope of the request.
Emails	Release in part	Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a).

Proactively released consistent with the Official Information Act

I do not consider that the withholding of this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

Regarding the emails provided as part of this response, I point out the following:

Conflict of interest

The 8 February 2018 briefing *Regional Growth Initiatives (MYA) – Manea Footprints of Kupe Cultural Heritage and Education Centre* notes that the Minister for Regional Economic Development had declared a conflict of interest with this project and would not receive this proposal for consideration. This briefing was provided to the Ministers of Tourism, Finance, Transport and for Economic Development, who subsequently approved the proposal.

The 9 February 2018 briefing *Recommendations for funding from the Regional Growth Initiative Fund and Provincial Growth Fund* notes in Annex One against the Manea Footprints of Kupe Cultural Heritage and Education Centre proposal: "Do not have Min Robertson (MOF) approval, three in regional action plan others have approved – Davis, Twyford, and Parker". This latter note refers to the fact that only these delegated Ministers were involved in approving the proposal.

Treasury support for the proposal

Email 3 includes commentary from the Treasury "We recommend the Minister of Finance does not agree to this proposal to approve funding. We will work with MBIE to support them to develop a new briefing that makes this funding conditional on contractual milestones to give assurance on the management of the project. Following MBIE's briefing being sent last week, the Minister of Finance verbally agreed on Monday 12 February to the project, making funding conditional on milestones. MBIE was directed to work with the Treasury on these. This briefing, dated 8 February, does not provide those conditions of funding."

This position is amended in further comment in emails 1 and 2:

Treasury notes "Just to formalise what we just discussed before, the Minister of Finance was particularly interested in ensuring that milestones were included for the project and that funding for the project be contingent on these. I understand that these milestones will be developed as part of the contract phase of the process..." and

The office of the Minister of Tourism notes "No revised briefing is coming across and MB understands MoF is happy with concerns being managed through contractual arrangements."

I trust you find the information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



John Doorbar
Provincial Development Unit Director
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment