



13 November 2024



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 15 October 2024, in which you asked for:

I am requesting copies of any letters or emails the Department of Conservation has sent to the Government, including to Prime Minister Christopher Luxon and ministers Chris Bishop, Simeon Brown and Shane Jones regarding the Fast-track Approvals Bill.

This includes letters regarding DOC or any of its employees' concerns or support for the bill.

Please include any responses received from the PM and aforementioned ministers.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

On 8 November you clarified (or refined) your request to:

Letters or emails sent or directed to Ministers (as opposed to their offices)

On 13 November 2024 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 27 November due to the consultation necessary.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- advice still under consideration, section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,

- legally privileged advice, under section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal privilege.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

If you would like to discuss this response with us, please contact me by email at samthomas@doc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

Sam Thomas
Director Policy
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Table 1 - Schedule of documents

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	11 February 2024	Email providing Fast-track documents to Minister.	Released in part.
2	25 February 2024	Emails thanking officials for advice.	Released in part.
3	27 June 2024	Email advice to support Fast-track Approvals decisions.	Released in part.
4	1 July 2024	Email with lines for interview.	Released in full.
5	19 July 2024	Email advice to support Minister's consideration of Fast-track papers.	Released in part.
6	23 July 2024	Email advice to support Ministerial consultation on Fast-track Cabinet paper.	Released in part.
7	9 September 2024	Email advice to support Ministerial consultation on Fast-track Cabinet paper.	Released in part.
8	13 September 2024	Email correcting briefing recommendation.	Released in part.