

18 September 2018



Ms Kerry McDonald  
thomaskmcd@gmail.com

Dear Ms McDonald

### Official Information Request

Our Ref: 2018/136

I refer to your official information request received on 16 August 2018 for:

- *A detailed note (up to 8 pages) on the qualifications and experience of the recent appointee to the role of CE of MBIE*
- *The criteria used in evaluating potential appointees to the role*
- *A brief note (up to 2 pages) with no names shown of the skills and experience of the other short listed/interviewed candidates for the role*
- *Information showing the basis for the selection of the successful candidate*

On 23 August 2018, we provided you with a link to the information that was proactively released, relating to the Appointment of the Chief Executive, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and sought clarification from you, whether there was further information you were seeking.

On 25 August 2018, you advised that you were still specifically looking for information, which you stated would be reasonably set out in a CV for an appointment of this nature. Information such as;

- *Leadership - philosophy, style, priorities, successes, learnings; working with direct reports*
- *Management - philosophy, style, etc; role of teams*
- *Analytical skills/capability/experience - economic, financial, risk, strategic, etc.*
- *Strategic thinking, especially "post capitalism, digital environment, opportunities/threats for NZ; priorities for MBIE and NZ, etc*
- *EQ & IQ - strengths, weaknesses; implications*
- *Personal philosophy in relation to MBIE and the role*

It is important to note that information must be held, i.e. in existence, when it is requested. There is no obligation under the Official Information Act to create information (eg. a detailed note up to 8 pages) in order to respond to a request.

### Information publicly available

Therefore in response to your request, as earlier advised, the following information is covered by your request and is publicly available on the SSC website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1	14 August 2018	Appointment of Chief Executive – Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	<a href="http://www.ssc.govt.nz/proactive-releases">http://www.ssc.govt.nz/proactive-releases</a>

Before making a recommendation for the transfer of a current Public Service CE into a CE role in another department, under section 37A of the Act, the Commissioner must believe on reasonable grounds that the transfer would be in the public interest. The Commissioner's grounds for this appointment are outlined in the Cabinet Paper included in the papers provided for at the link above.

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the OIA – the information requested is publicly available.

### Information being withheld

There are additional documents covered by your request as clarified with you on the 25 August 2018, that I have decided to withhold in full under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA – to protect the privacy of natural persons.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and do not believe that the public interest outweighs the privacy of the individual.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial.Services@ssc.govt.nz).

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the State Services Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Dallas Welch  
Deputy Commissioner  
**State Services Commission**