



13 February 2018



Reference: OIA-2017/18-0290

Dear 

Official Information Act request relating to the Methamphetamine Action Plan

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 15 January 2018. You requested:

- *Any briefings, reports, memos, or correspondence to the incoming minister of police on the previous Government's "meth action plan."*
- *Any preparatory work for the unreleased meth action plan report 2016/2017.*

The first part of your request was transferred to Hon Stuart Nash as Minister of Police for his direct response.

With regard to your request for any preparatory work for the 2016/2017 report, I note that although a document exists that has been referred to as the "draft report", I have decided to withhold the document in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the free and frank exchange of opinion.

The "draft report" was a copy of the finalised *Methamphetamine - indicators and progress report October 2015* report and its data, into which contributing agencies were adding updated information. As those agencies were in the process of adding updated data and narrative to the document, it contains unverified and unpublished data, as well as the direction in which the reporting might proceed.

The report when completed, was intended to be provided in December 2016 to the then Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key. An initial meeting of the agencies responsible for contributing to the final report was convened on 4 October 2016. All work done in progressing the report towards a final version was subsequently halted. Initially, this was due to the 14 November 2016 earthquake in the Kaikōura area. Before work recommenced on the report, the Prime Minister announced his resignation and Rt Hon Bill English was appointed. As a result, completion of the report became unnecessary in its current form. Prime Minister English transferred oversight responsibility for the existing Methamphetamine Action Plan to the then Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Paula Bennett.

The Deputy Prime Minister obtained agreement from Cabinet in July 2017 to a refresh of the Government's approach to tackling methamphetamine and its harms, and was invited to report back to Cabinet in November 2017. The Deputy Prime Minister did not make detailed announcements on the refreshed plan before the election. The change of Government in October 2017 means that this refresh was not finalised under the previous administration.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account and do not consider that they outweigh the reasons for withholding.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released quarterly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Yours sincerely



Anneliese Parkin
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy