



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

6 October 2020

9(2)(a) privacy

Dear 9(2)(a)

Official Information Request
Our Ref: OIA 2020-0073

I refer to your official information request received on 10 September 2020 where you asked:

“I would like to apply for this record, as I am researching Thea D Duncan nee Muir. Thea's family is part of the Chinese Camp in Lawrence. Thea descends from Wong Seque, one of the pioneering families from Lawrence and Dunedin.”

On 10 September 2020 in our email to you, we advised you that all personnel files are restricted for 70 years from the date of closure of the file. The file you requested is restricted until 2054 unless you have the person or their next of kin's consent to access the information. In response you advised that you advised you were going to seek the next of kin's permission to view the file.

While waiting to hear back from you, we obtained the file from Archives NZ and found that the entire file consisted of 2 pages.

We wrote further to you on 22 September 2020, advising that the file consisted of only 2 pages of the individual's information which outlined dates and rates of salary changes. We asked whether this information would be of use to you, to avoid you having to seek consent from the next of kin, for the limited information.

As we have not heard back from you in response to our email of 22 September 2020 and you haven't provided consent from the next of kin to access this file, we are therefore refusing your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@publicservice.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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Dirks
Managing Principal – Ministerial Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission