



Te Kawa Mataaho
Public Service Commission

27 August 2020

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Official Information Request
Our Ref: OIA 2020-0063

I refer to your official information request received on 30 July 2020 where you have asked:

“Would you please be able to send me the full statements and/or transcriptions of interviews with Boag, Walker and Woodhouse?”

Our Response

It is important to note that the ability of Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) to protect information received during the inquiry is required not only to successfully conduct such an Inquiry, but also to not prejudice the supply of similar information in the future.

For this Inquiry, the interviews conducted with Michelle Boag, Hamish Walker and Michael Woodhouse were not audio recorded. Therefore, we have made the decision to refuse your request for *“the transcriptions of interviews with Hamish Walker, Michelle Boag and Michael Woodhouse”* under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) on the grounds that no transcriptions exist.

We have interpreted your request for the “full statements of interviews” broadly as meaning all the documents that capture information provided by Hamish Walker, Michelle Boag and Michael Woodhouse during the evidence gathering phase of the Investigation. The table below outlines the relevant documents:

Item	Document Description	Decision
1	Hamish Walker statement	Refused in full
2	Michelle Boag record of interview	Refused in full
3	Email - Michael Woodhouse phone call summary	Refused in full
4	Email - Michelle Boag interview summary	Refused in full
5	Email from Michelle Boag	Refused in full

We have made the decision to withhold these documents in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the OIA in order to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making

available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

In making our decision, we have considered the public interest test in section 9(1) of the OIA and believe that there is no countervailing public interest in release, because the information contained within these documents has been summarised in the Investigation Report into COVID 19 active cases privacy breach, which can be found on the Commission's website [here](#). 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