



Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 27 May 2019 for:

"1) all correspondence dated up until February 28 2018 between the NZIER and the Ministry of Health regarding the NZIER's 2017 Sugar Tax Report, including any draft copies of the report provided to the ministry, and notes, feedback or any other correspondence regarding the report between the two bodies,

2) all documents regarding the Ministry of Health's communications strategy regarding the public release of the report, also dated up until February 28 2018.

These can exclude any documents already in the cache released to Dr Eric Crampton of the NZI on October 2017."

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has identified 18 documents that are within scope of part one of your request. These are itemised in Appendix one to this letter with copies of the documents attached. Some information has been withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

The Ministry had not developed a communications strategy for the release of the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) 2017 sugar taxes report at the time of its release. The Ministry intended for the final report to be made publicly available, and at that time would have developed a communications strategy. However, this was pre-empted by an Official Information Act request. This part of your request is declined pursuant to section 18(g) of the Act, as the document requested does not exist.

I trust that this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



Maree Roberts
Deputy Director-General
System Strategy and Policy

Appendix one: List of documents

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1	19 May 2017	Testing an idea...	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
2	29 May 2017	Sugar tax contract	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
3	29 June 2017	RE: All Good	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
4	30 June 2017	Resend	Released in full.
5	3 July 2017	Draft Report v4.docx	Released in full.
6	3 July 2017	RE: Resend	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
7	5 July 2017	Draft Report v4.docx with Bronwyn Croxson comments	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
8	12 July 2017	RE: This afternoon	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
9	17 July 2017	Draft Report	Released in full.
10	25 July 2017	RE: Draft Report	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
11	25 July 2017	RE: Draft Report	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
12	26 July 2017	Sugar Taxes	Released in full.
13	28 July 2017	RE: Sugar Taxes	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
14	2 August 2017	RE: Sugar Taxes	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
15	15 January 2018	RE: Forthcoming OIA release of the NZIER Report "Sugar taxes A review of the evidence" Correspondence with NZIER	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
16	30 January 2018	Your report on Sugar Taxes - fine to put it on the NZIER website	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

17	19 February 2018	Replying to Boyd Swinburn	Released in full.
18	20 February 2018	RE: Replying to Boyd Swinburn	Released with some information withheld pursuant to section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

