



25 June 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Request
Our Ref: SSCOIA 2019/0190

I refer to your official information request received on 4 June 2019 for:

- a) *the terms of reference of your enquiry into Treasury regarding the release of budget information to the Opposition - please include any earlier or amended terms of reference so we can see how these have changed or been updated as more information has become public;*
- b) *a timeline of your investigation - specifically whether you anticipate completing the investigation prior to the Secretary of Treasury's departure date; and*
- c) *whether the Secretary has agreed to make himself available to your Office / the investigation team, after his departure date, in the event the enquiry continues after then.*

On the basis that the Secretary is soon to depart Treasury to take up a role in Ireland as head of its Reserve Bank, we hereby request this request is treated with urgency."

On 4 June 2019, the State Services Commissioner announced an investigation into questions raised concerning the Chief Executive and Secretary to the Treasury, Gabriel Makhlouf, and his actions and public statements about the causes of the unauthorised access to Budget material.

The media statement can be found at: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/investigation-statements-made-and-actions-taken-secretary-treasury>

The Commissioner and the Secretary of the Treasury agreed that it is in everyone's interests that the facts are established before Mr Makhlouf's finishes in the role on 27 June 2019.

Mr Makhlouf is happy to cooperate fully to achieve that.

On 11 June 2019, the State Services Commissioner announced the appointment of Murray Jack to head the Inquiry into the Treasury's Budget related Information Security Systems. The terms of reference for this Inquiry were released alongside this announcement and are available on the State Services Commission website at: <http://www.ssc.govt.nz/murray-jack-investigate-how-budget-sensitive-material-was-accessed>

In response to the part of your request that has asked for the terms of reference of the Inquiry, we are refusing this part of your request in full under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information you have requested is publicly available.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact 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 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



Nicky Dirks
Managing Principal – Ministerial Services
State Services Commission