

17 DEC 2019

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your refined official information request received 23 October 2019, for:

*'All reports, briefings, memos, analysis, advice, and cabinet papers within the last 6 months that have been sent to the Minister of Housing and Associate Minister of Housing relating to state houses Kainga Ora are planning to sell and the reasons for the sale. This should include oral and written communications with external parties in relation to these sales.'*

We have searched Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities' records and find that there are no briefings or advice provided to Ministers about houses that Kāinga Ora are planning to sell. Kāinga Ora is not currently planning to sell any state houses.

Kāinga Ora does reactively sell individual houses under certain circumstances. When a house becomes vacant a scoping exercise is carried out with regard to maintenance before a new tenant takes up residency. Selling the property may be considered if the house is old and uneconomic to refurbish, or no longer meets the needs of our tenants, or is in an area where there is no demand and this has been the case for some time. Kāinga Ora also has a programme for tenant home ownership where certain criteria are met. Some information has been provided to Ministers about these reactive sales.

Information was provided to Ministers in the Briefing to Incoming Ministers (BIM) which is publicly available at <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-09/Housing%20-%20HNZ.PDF>. The information at page 64 of the BIM addresses tenant home ownership. Information was also provided to Hon Kris Faafoi in draft answers to Written Parliamentary Questions from Simon O'Connor. This advice is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA to protect the confidentiality of officials' advice to Ministers. The Ombudsman has confirmed the principle that, subject to the application of the public interest test in section 9(1) of the OIA, section 9(2)(f)(iv) applies to protect draft answers to Parliamentary Questions.

I have considered the public interest in release of this information and do not consider that it outweighs the need to withhold it in this case. Minister Faafoi's responses to the Written Parliamentary Questions regarding the sale of state houses have been published on the Parliamentary website.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Kelly  
**Manager Government Relations**