



12 May 2010

Mr David Farrar
Email: david@farrar.com

Dear David

Murdoch Review

I refer to your request – that was transferred to the State Services Commission – for information relating to the change of name and mandate of the External Assessments Bureau.

Please find attached a summary of the Murdoch Review. This summary has been provided in reliance on section 16(2)(c) of the Official Information Act 1982 as to provide the information in the form that you have requested would prejudice the interests protected by sections 6(a), 6(b) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Official Information Act. Those sections are relied on as to make the information available would prejudice the security and defence of New Zealand, information entrusted to New Zealand on the basis of confidence, and the free and frank expressions of opinion by officials. In relation to the latter provision I have considered whether there is nevertheless a public interest in the information withheld in reliance on that provision which would override the reasons for withholding it but do not consider that such an interest exists.

You have the right in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act to make a complaint to an Ombudsman to seek an investigation and review of my decision.

As I understand it, the Prime Minister intends to make an announcement about the review and the changes he has made to improve the effectiveness and governance of the New Zealand intelligence system later today.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Iain Rennie'.

Iain Rennie
State Services Commissioner