

Reference: 20180487

4 February 2019



Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 16 November 2018. You requested the following:

All correspondence between the Treasury and the RBNZ regarding Gabriel Makhlouf's attendance at RBNZ monetary policy meetings as the Treasury observer in 2019, including any discussions about an alternate Treasury official attending meetings in Mr Makhlouf's absence and what might happen when Mr Makhlouf's term as Treasury Secretary ends on June 27, 2019.

We extended the response time allowed by 20 working days to allow for further consultation. A response to the request is due by 4 February.

Information Publicly Available

The right for the Secretary to the Treasury to nominate an observer is established in schedule 2, part 1, clause 23 of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand (Monetary Policy) Amendment Act 2018 (see www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0059/latest/LMS65637.html?search=sw_096be8ed8181c16b_treasury+observer_25_se&p=1).

Schedule 1, clause 10 of the Act states that the Secretary to the Treasury must nominate the observer before April 1 2019, with the nomination coming into effect on that date (see www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0059/latest/LMS65560.html?search=sw_096be8ed8181c16b_treasury+observer_25_se&p=1).

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury website as part of a previous release of official information:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	03/7/2018	Email: Implementing phase 1	https://treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-01/oia-20180426.pdf

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act:

- the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and will continue to be withheld under the Official Information Act, on the grounds described in the documents.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely

David Bowden
Chief of Staff