

Reference: 20190316

26 July 2019

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 30 May 2019. You requested the following:

Any briefings or other documents generated by Treasury between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019 relating to release of Budget information.

Any briefings or other documents provided to Hon Grant Robertson or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019 relating to release of Budget information.

Any briefings or other documents received by Treasury between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019 relating to release of Budget information.

Any documents generated for meetings with Hon Grant Robertson or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019.

Any notes taken at meetings with Hon Grant Robertson or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019.

Dates, attendees and details of meetings with Hon Grant Robertson or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019.

As you are aware, on 26 June I extended the timeframe for a decision on your request by 20 working days, and refused the information requested in points 1 to 3 of your request under 6(c) of the Official Information Act – the making available of that information would be likely to prejudice the maintenance of the law.

The only document generated by the Treasury for meetings with the Minister of Finance or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019 was an email from the Treasury advising of some topics the Minister may have wanted to raise in a meeting with the ANZ's Hong Kong-based Chief Economist for Greater China, Raymond Yeung. No notes were taken by Treasury officials at meetings with the Minister of Finance or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30

May 2019. Therefore, I am refusing point 5 of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act – the information requested does not exist.

The Minister of Finance proactively releases “Dates, attendees and details of meetings” on the Beehive website (see www.beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-06/Robertson%20May%202019.pdf) on a monthly basis. Therefore, I am refusing your request for “Dates, attendees and details of meetings with Hon Grant Robertson or his office between Monday 27 May 2019 and Thursday 30 May 2019” under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information is publicly available.

Information Being Released

Please find enclosed the following document:

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1.	27 May 2019	Email: RE: diary request: a briefing/discussion about China's economy with ANZ's Chief Economist for Greater China - Beehive, Monday 27 May any time between 5pm and 6:30pm	Release in part

I have decided to release the document listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

- personal contact details of officials, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons,
- contact details of officials under section 9(2)(g)(ii) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment,
- direct dial phone numbers of officials, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure of information for improper gain or improper advantage.

Direct dial phone numbers of officials have been redacted under section 9(2)(k) in order to reduce the possibility of staff being exposed to phishing and other scams. This is because information released under the OIA may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including the Treasury’s website.]

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents 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

20190316

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From: Robbie Taylor [TSY]
Sent: Monday, 27 May 2019 10:06 AM
To: Brendon Riches [TSY]
Subject: RE: diary request: a briefing/discussion about China's economy with ANZ's Chief Economist for Greater China - Beehive, Monday 27 May any time between 5pm and 6:30pm?

Hi Brendon
I just spoke to Angus. He was very grateful for the below.

He also said that you or someone from your etam would be more than welcome to attend the meeting. Its at 5pm. Could you email him and Keiran in the office with the name of the person attending?
Cheers

From: Brendon Riches [TSY] <Brendon.Riches@treasury.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 27 May 2019 9:42 AM
To: Robbie Taylor [TSY] <Robbie.Taylor@treasury.govt.nz>; ^EXT: Angus Hodgson
s9(2)(g)(ii)
Cc: Thomas Parry [TSY] <Thomas.Parry@treasury.govt.nz>; ^Parliament: Angela Bray
s9(2)(g)(ii)
Subject: RE: diary request: a briefing/discussion about China's economy with ANZ's Chief Economist for Greater China - Beehive, Monday 27 May any time between 5pm and 6:30pm?

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

That looks good Robbie, thanks.

One theme Grant may wish to invite Raymond to discuss is the outlook for the wider Asia region, and how the ANZ sees that impacting NZ.

Global trade flows were weakening prior to the recent escalation of US-China trade tensions and it seems the are likely to weaken further. Not just for the US and China, but for the smaller, trade dependant economies in the region. While the medium-term may present some opportunities from trade diversion, the short-term impacts and attendant uncertainty may drive a further contraction in exports.

Q. What is ANZ's central scenario for economic outcomes in the region? How well placed are the economies in the region to manage? What are the risks of a deeper/more prolonged slowdown? What is the ANZ's advice for those clients looking to invest in NZ?

The economies of Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Philippines, Thailand and South Korea account for 20% of NZ's exports, with Japan taking 7.5% of NZ exports. Together that's roughly equivalent to China's export share, which is a little over 25%.

What time is Raymond's meeting? It sounds like it may be of interest to our team.

Regards
Brendon

From: Robbie Taylor [TSY] <Robbie.Taylor@treasury.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 27 May 2019 08:33
To: ^EXT: Angus Hodgson s9(2)(g)(ii)

Cc: Thomas Parry [TSY] <Thomas.Parry@treasury.govt.nz>; ^Parliament: Angela Bray <Angela.bray@parliament.govt.nz>; Brendon Riches [TSY] <Brendon.Riches@treasury.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: diary request: a briefing/discussion about China's economy with ANZ's Chief Economist for Greater China - Beehive, Monday 27 May any time between 5pm and 6:30pm?

Hi Angus

There isn't anything from a financial markets perspective that we would recommend raising in this meeting.

Brendon/Thomas may have some broader points.

I am guessing that impacts of trade tensions (including the recent escalation with tariffs and impacts on Huawei) will be covered off.

- How resilient is the Chinese economy is to continue to buffer against the impacts of this? What will the impacts of this be on China? Hong Kong?
- What levers is China pulling to mitigate impacts and what are the spillovers for regional economies and NZ?
- How does he see NZ being impacted by the trade tensions and slowdown in the Chinese economy generally?
- Is he seeing impacts on investment flows into/out of China? How significant are these?

Happy to discuss this morning.

Robbie

Sent from my iPhone

On 24/05/2019, at 4:44 PM, Angus Hodgson ^{s9(2)(g)(ii)} wrote:

Kia ora Robbie

The Minister is meeting with Raymond Yeung from ANZ next Monday. He has his biography and the meeting will simply be for him to hear his views on the China economy. Regrettably, I've just realised I hadn't sent this through to the team.

Could we please talk first thing Monday? In particular, it would be helpful to have any talking points which Treasury recommends the Minister could raise and any key information the Minister needs to know about.

Mauri ora

<image001.jpg> **Angus Hodgson, Private Secretary (Finance and State Owned Enterprises)**
Office of Hon Grant Robertson | Office of Rt Hon Winston Peters
 Minister of Finance | Minister for State Owned Enterprises

Level 7.6 Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, PO Box 18041, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

^{s9(2)(k)} | ^{s9(2)(a)}

E: ^{s9(2)(g)(ii)}

From: Gaukrodger, Andrew ^{s9(2)(a)}

Sent: Friday, 3 May 2019 4:13 PM

To: Angela Bray ^{s9(2)(g)(ii)}

Subject: diary request: a briefing/discussion about China's economy with ANZ's Chief Economist for Greater China - Beehive, Monday 27 May any time between 5pm and 6:30pm?

Hi Angela

Coincidentally, another of ANZ's offshore economists – this time our Hong Kong-based Chief Economist for Greater China, Raymond Yeung - is in Wellington soon so we wondered if the Minister is able to meet him in the Beehive for a short briefing/Q&A on China's economy?

Date & time: Raymond's in Wellington only on Monday 27 May and is free any time from 5pm until 6:30pm. Would this suit the Minister by any chance? I realise it's Budget week so pressure on MoF's diary could be higher than normal.

I'd be grateful if you'd please consider this anyway. Raymond would be very pleased if it's a yes. He's good company and has been covering China for 20 years. I've attached his bio FYI.

Many thanks
Andrew

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<Raymond Yeung 2019.pdf>