

IN THE MATTER OF THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

REFERENCE **288181**

BETWEEN **Mike Plowman**

Requester

AND **Ministry of Justice –
Office of Treaty
Settlements**

Agency

**SUBMISSIONS OF COUNSEL FOR MR PLOWMAN ON CHIEF OMBUDSMAN'S
PROVISIONAL OPINION**

- The Requester does not agree with the Chief Ombudsman's provisional opinion under the Official Information Act of June 2014 ("the provisional opinion"). The Requesters view is that the Office of Treaty Settlements ("OTS") did not have good reason under section 9(2)(j) of the Official Information Act 1982 ("the OIA") to withhold the information at issue.

Background: developments since previous submissions

- The provisional opinion refers to the announcement by the Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations, Hon Christopher Finlayson on 26 March 2014 that the Crown and Whanganui Iwi negotiators had initialled the Whanganui River Deed of Settlement and the Te Awa Tupua framework document ("the Settlement Documents"). These documents are publically available. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the Settlement Documents were signed on 5 August 2014.
- According to the provisional opinion the Office of Treaty Settlements ("OTS"), by letter dated 15 October 2013, confirmed its earlier decision to withhold the information at issue (paragraph 16).