

Communications between the Prime Minister/Prime Minister's Office and Mr Handley

This documents includes all phone and text message communications between the Prime Minister/the Prime Minister's office and Mr Derek Handley which are not publically available. The publically available messages are attached for reference.

Text messages

4 November 2017 8.51am: Text message from Mr Handley to PM:

- "Rt Hon J! I'm in Auckland next week for two days. Who is best to meet to explore how I can help or what role I could play in support of you? D [Emojis]"
- The Prime Minister did not respond.

Phone calls

December 2017: The Prime Minister's Acting Chief of Staff called Mr Handley on 22 December to discuss an earlier approach Mr Handley had made to a senior Labour Party official. The introductory call discussed Mr Handley's interest in discussing ideas for how he could help New Zealand. The Acting Chief of Staff noted he was leaving the role and would pass on Mr Handley's contact details to the incoming Chief of Staff. The phone call was high level and did not include discussion or reference to the CTO or any other role. No further calls or action was taken.

Comment: The Acting Chief of Staff initiated the phone call following an approach from a senior Labour Party official in mid-November. The official had met Mr Handley who had asked how he could best assist New Zealand. The senior Labour Party official passed the contact details to the Acting Chief of Staff.

There were no further communications between Mr Handley and the Prime Minister or the Prime Minister's Office until the exchange on the April 2018. Note: no action was taken in response to the Prime Minister's comment "I'll talk to the team about how we can make use of you and your kind offer".

August 2018: The Prime Minister's Chief Press Secretary made calls on the 23rd and 24th of August to Mr Derek Handley to advise him of the impending announcement about Hon Clare Curran and the fact his name would be entering the media. Mr Handley was given the opportunity to provide feedback on the communications that related to him.

On the 30th of August, Mr Handley and the Chief Press Secretary had a conversation regarding the media coverage following the decision to stand Hon Clare Curran down.