



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

13 March 2024

9(2)(a) privacy

9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2024-0022

I refer to your official information request received on 21 February 2024 where you have asked:

“Under the Official Information Act 1982 I would like to request what advice, if any, that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has given the Prime Minister, the Cabinet of Ministers, Departmental agencies and Crown Ministries regarding the cuts in staff to be made in the public services and any subsequent conversations of relevance resulting.

Relevant information within documents or conversations may include:

- Any ministries, departments, Crown entities, boards, groupings like research institutes, independent Crown entities etc. that either in part or in whole have been considered superfluous or requiring cutbacks and why*
- Particulars on projects or roles that have either in part or in whole have been considered for cutbacks, closures or redundancies and why.*
- helpful information may include a brief description of the roles, duties or scopes of projects or groupings that may be considered obscure which is left to your discretion given time and work constraints on this request”.*

You followed up with an email advising that the question was for the Public Service Commission, not the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Our response

On 20 December 2023, the Minister of Finance, Hon Nicola Willis announced the Government had started on an ongoing Fiscal Sustainability Programme to embed a culture of responsible spending across Government. Ministers have asked their agencies to find savings ahead of Budget 2024, with individual agency targets informed by headcount growth since 2017. All savings proposals will be subject to an assurance process and final agreement by Cabinet at Budget 2024.

Listed in the table below are five reports Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) has provided to the Minister for the Public Service that relate to the Fiscal Sustainability Programme.

I have decided to withhold these documents in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) in order to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1	27 November 2023	2023-0291 - REPORT - Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Withheld in full
2	14 December 2023	2023-0315 - JOINT REPORT - Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Withheld in full
3	14 December 2023	2023-0316 - REPORT - Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Withheld in full
4	20 December 2023	2023-0321 - REPORT - Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Withheld in full
5	7 February 2024	2024-0033 - REPORT - Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Withheld in full
6	15 February 2024	2024-0040 - REPORT - Title withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)	Withheld in full

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks
Manager - Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission