

2 April 2024

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## Official Information Request Our Ref: OIA 2024-0039

I refer to your official information request received on 8 March 2024 for:

"Under the Official Information Act 1982 I request the following since the current Government was sworn in:

- Any briefings provided to a Minister or Ministers to support conversations the Minister(s) has had with representatives of lobbying groups?
  - If briefings have been provided, please also provide any related correspondence between or within agencies/departments/ministries and/or with the Minister or their staff.
- A copy of any correspondence the Minister's Office forwarded to the Department from representatives of lobbying groups.

According to the Ministry of Justice description of 'lobbying', this request would cover information relating to all 'advocacy activities to influence government policies and decisions'. This description is not intended to exclude groups or individuals but is rather intended to assist in the interpretation of the scope of this request.

Where the information relates to matters that are currently under active consideration by Ministers or Cabinet, I note that the Ombudsman has previously ruled that section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act does not apply to information from external consultants or lobbyists (see Ombudsman case 174587).

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any clarification about my request".

## Information not held

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) has not provided any briefings to the Minister for the Public Service to support conversations with representatives of Lobbying groups. The Commission has also not received any correspondence forwarded from the Minister for the Public Service from representatives of Lobbying Groups. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) that the information does not exist.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact <a href="mailto:Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz">Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz</a>.

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 <a href="https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz">www.ombudsman.parliament.nz</a> 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