



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

4 August 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2025-0006

I refer to your official information request received on 7 July 2025 for:

“...information which discusses or considers merging the Ministry for the Environment, Ministry of Transport, and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

Please supply:

- *Communications sent within the last year, which discusses merging these ministries.*
- *Memos, advice and research conducted by the Commission into merging these ministries, created since November 2023.*

For clarity:

- *Communications include but are not limited to emails, text messages (or messages on other apps) and letters, addressed to or received by the Public Service Commission.”*

Information publicly available

Listed in the table below is machinery of government advice from the Public Service Commission (the Commission) which is publicly available on the Commission’s website at the links also provided for in the table below.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1	27 November 2023	2023-0294 – REPORT - Implementing Machinery of Government Changes	https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Report-Implementing-Machinery-of-Government-Changes.pdf
2	27 March 2024	2024-0066 – REPORT – Advancing increased efficiency through machinery of government change	https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/2024-0066-REPORT-Advancing-increased-efficiencies-through-machinery-of-government-change.pdf

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 19682 (OIA) on the grounds the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some relevant information has been removed from documents listed in the above table and should continue to be withheld under the OIA, on the grounds described in the documents.

Information being withheld

There is additional information that I have decided to withhold in full under:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- section 9(2)(g) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Enquiries@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**