



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

12 August 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2025-0015

I refer to your official information request received on 18 July 2025 for:

“Given the Governments NZ First and National Coalition commitment to ‘Ensure all public service departments have their primary name in English, except for those specifically related to Maori’ and ‘the public service departments and Crown Entities to communicate primarily in English - except those entities specifically related to Maori’ and ‘Legislate to make English an official language of New Zealand’. I am assured the ACT party’s coalition commitments expect this to be upheld.

Als acknowledging the announcement last year from Nicola Willis, Public Service Minister after the issue was taken to Cabinet in May, that an all of government directive would not be sent out, with her instead delegating the issue to each minister to manage with their own department on a case-by-case basis.

The following information is now requested in terms of the Act.

- *The total number of departments expected to be affected by the change*
- *The number of departments currently confirmed to have made the change as stipulated by the commitment*
- *The number of departments yet to make the change as stipulated by the commitment*
- *The number of departments known to have made a change which does not meet the commitment intention*
- *What if any monitoring is in place, or intended to be put in place, to ensure the commitment is met by all departments*
- *When is the commitment scheduled to have been met by all departments*
- *In the event that progress continues to be unsatisfactory in meeting the sated commitment intent as seems at present, does the Minister intend to address any department performance failures to ensure the target is met pre election”*

Information not held

We are refusing parts one – six under section 18 (g)(i) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Public Service Commission and we have no grounds for believing it is held by another agency.

As outlined by the then Minister for the Public Service, Hon Nicola Willis, no specific or generic directives have been issued on the commitment. Individual Ministers and agencies have responded to the coalition commitments on a case-by-case basis and will continue to do so.

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 Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

**Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**