



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

11 August 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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## Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2025-0027

I refer to your official information request received on 28 July 2025 for:

*"I am writing to request information regarding your current policies and practices relating to te reo Māori, with recent coverage and directives on this particular topic – as well as considering the Coalition Government's direction to:*

- *"Ensure all public service departments have their primary name in English, except for those specifically related to Māori", and*
- *"Require the public service departments and Crown Entities to communicate primarily in English – except those entities specifically related to Māori".*

*Relevant context for this request is that as you will likely be aware, Public Service Minister said in May 2024 she would not issue a central directive across the public service. Instead, ministers were left to implement the policy case-by-case, coordinating directly with their own agencies.*

*I would appreciate your response to the following;*

1. *Has your agency been directed, asked or encouraged, to change its name or order of use of its given reo Māori name - branding, and/or logo?*
  - *If so, what changes have been made (e.g. collateral, website, outreach materials, letterheads, email signatures)?*
  - *If applicable – have you had to switch around the name so that the English name comes first and reo Māori name second?*
  - *When were these changes made, and when were they officially adopted?*
  - *What cost was incurred as a result of having to make any of these types of changes?*
2. *Have you received any ministerial or governance (from your boards and/or advisory groups) directives instructing a halt or reduction in the use of te reo Māori in reports, internal communications, or public-facing documents – or has this changed irrespective of any clear directive and as part of changes implemented as asked in q. 1 above.*
3. *Does your agency have a current reo Māori strategy aligned with Maihi Karauna?*

- *If so, could you please outline the key elements of that strategy, and confirm whether it remains active and implemented?*
- *As a specific example, are you still carrying out internal reo Māori courses? Or has this changed since the 2023 election?*

### **Te reo Māori branding**

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) has not been directed, asked or encouraged to change its te reo Māori name, branding or logo, or received ministerial directives instructing a halt or reduction in the use of te reo Māori in reports, internal communications, or public facing documents.

### **Te reo Māori strategy**

The Commission's Māori capability strategy, Te Angitū is about building foundational cultural capability for our people. We want our people to confidently understand, value and participate in te ao Māori in a way that enables our organisation to support the Crown in its relationship with Māori.

Te Angitū draws on the work of Te Arawhiti to transform leadership through Whāinga Amorangi - a multi-year cross-agency work programme designed to lift the Māori Crown relations capability of the public service. Te Angitū includes the priority areas of te reo Māori and Aotearoa New Zealand history, including understanding Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Te Angitū incorporates Te Mahere Reo Māori, our Māori language plan as part of Maihi Karauna - the Crown's strategy for Māori language revitalisation.

Te Angitū also states the goal that "te reo Māori is spoken, understood and valued at Te Kawa Mataaho and through our external engagements and communications".

To achieve this, the Commission offered foundational Māori cultural competency training at Level 1 and 2, including te reo Māori, tikanga/kawa and Te Tiriti o Waitangi during 2024/25.

We have had 11 learners enrolled at level 1 and 13 learners at level 2 during the 2024/25 year which is 14% of the Commission workforce. Since 2022 there have been 157 attendees for te reo classes at various levels and 162 people have attended the [Wall Walk course](#).

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://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**