



17 November 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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### **Official Information Request**

**Our Ref: OIA 2025-0126**

I refer to your official information request received on 21 October 2025 for:

*“Any correspondence between Sir Brian Roche and/or his staff and any Ministers, ministerial offices, or Beehive officials relating to his holiday in Australia in October 2025, his availability, or public/media handling of the matter.*

*Any related travel approvals, leave records, or notes explaining the timing, nature, or handling of his absence.*

*Where a document that falls under scope of this request cannot be released, please supply a summary of that document’s contents. Where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope”*

### **Information being released**

As provided by section 16 (1)(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), I am providing the requested information by way of summary of the contents of the document.

On 6 June 2025 the Public Service Commissioner’s (Commissioner) leave in October 2025 was approved by the Commission’s Chief Legal Officer in accordance with the Commission’s delegation policy. This approval included confirming there was a statutory officer available during the period of leave.

The leave involved long-standing family commitments and while on leave, the Commissioner was still working and leading the bargaining work, including responding to media queries.

On 6 and 8 October 2025, the Commissioner discussed his upcoming leave with the Minister for the Public Service. Information included in the weekly reports to the Minister for the Public Service for the weeks ending 10 October 2025 and 17 October 2025, provided dates of the Commissioner's upcoming leave arrangements.

When it became apparent that the Union had decided on a date that conflicted with his longstanding and previously approved leave, it was agreed that he would be available for media matters and to lead the broader Public Service on any matters that arose from the day of action.

**Information does not exist**

All travel arrangements were met personally by the Commissioner; therefore, no travel approvals exist. Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

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 Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

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