



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

20 November 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2025-0134

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received on 22 October 2025 for:

1. *Copies of any correspondence, including emails, text messages, or whatsapp messages, regarding the Prime Minister's interview on the Pacific Media Network on 8 October 2025, sent or received by the Public Service Commissioner*
2. *Copies of any correspondence, including emails, text messages, or whatsapp messages, regarding the Prime Minister's interview on the Pacific Media Network on 8 October 2025, sent or received between any member of the Public Service Commission and any Minister's office.*
3. *Copies of all reports, memos, plans, briefings, or any other documents, regarding a merger or potential merger of the Ministry for Women, since 1 January 2024*
4. *Copies of all reports, memos, plans, briefings, or any other documents, regarding a merger or potential merger of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, since 1 January 2024*
5. *Copies of all reports, memos, plans, briefings, or any other documents, regarding a merger or potential merger of the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, since 1 January 2024*
6. *Copies of all reports, memos, plans, briefings, or any other documents, regarding a merger or potential merger of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, since 1 January 2024*
7. *Copies of all reports, memos, plans, briefings, or any other documents, regarding a merger or potential merger of Te Puni Kōkiri, since 1 January 2024*

Information being released - Parts one and two

On 8 August 2025, Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone, the Secretary for Pacific Peoples and chief executive of the Ministry for Pacific Peoples sent Josh Blackmore, Assistant Commissioner, a text message notifying him of Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister's interview with the Pacific Media Network saying the Government will not merge Ministries in this term and advised she would forward the link to the interview. She then emailed him a link to the interview online.

Mr Blackmore then shared this information on an FYI basis to Sir Brian Roche, Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner), Heather Baggott, Deputy Public Service Commissioner and Hugo Vitalis, Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy, Policy and Integrity via text message and forwarded the email. A reply text message was sent by the Commissioner acknowledging receipt and the

content of Mr Blackmore's heads up. As provided by section 16 (1)(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), we are providing a summary of the contents.

There were no other emails, text or WhatsApp messages sent or received by the Public Service Commissioner or sent or received between any member of the Public Service Commission and any Minister's office regarding the Prime Minister's interview on the Pacific Media Network on 8 October 2025.

Information being withheld – Parts three - seven

The Commissioner has said publicly that there are questions around the size and organisation of the public sector, and that there is scope to reduce fragmentation and strengthen individual agencies to focus on their core business.

At the same time, there are clear expectations on the public sector to improve its efficiency and performance. The Commissioner has been looking at this, including how to strengthen the resilience and impact of some functions.

There are documents within scope of the remaining parts of your requests that I have decided to withhold in full under the following sections of the OIA as applicable:

- section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- section 9(2)(g)(i) - 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) and enclosed documents on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

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