



27 January 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Request
Our Ref: OIA 2025-0216

I refer to your official information request received on 30 December 2025 for:

“...the following for the 2025 Public Service Census:

- *Were any Public Service Census employee responses disregarded? If yes, how many responses were disregarded in total?*
- *For the responses that were disregarded, what were the reasons that they were disregarded?*
- *If a submission was flagged to be disregarded, was there a review process?”*

Our response

The Public Service Commission (the Commission) did not disregard any responses to the 2025 Public Service Census. Our research provider was contracted to provide a clean final dataset, and so they checked for ‘speeders’ (people who answered the questions faster than a human could read them) and ‘straightliners’ (people who answer every question with the same response). The research provider has confirmed that no responses were removed for being speeders or straightliners.

In total of about 30 respondents selected “prefer not to answer” for every question they answered in the survey. Those responses remain in our final dataset but when we report on each question we are showing the valid responses - ie those who chose answers other than “don’t know” or “prefer not to answer”. This is in line with our protocols for how we report on all our datasets.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Dirks', written in a cursive style.

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