



16 April 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Act Request

Our Ref: OIA 2026-0064

I refer to your information request received on 19 March 2026 for:

A. PSC Awareness and Consideration – Arthur Allan Thomas

1. *What consideration, if any, has the Public Service Commission given to Justice Taylor's findings in the Thomas Royal Commission of Inquiry, including those findings being laid before the House of Representatives?*
2. *What advice, guidance, or direction (if any) has the PSC provided to:*
 - *the Police Commissioner, or*
 - *the Minister of Police regarding the constitutional and legal effect of those findings?*
3. *What consideration has the PSC given to the effect of section 407 of the Crimes Act 1961 (free pardon) on:*
 - *public statements by Police,*
 - *internal Police positions,*
 - *or continued reliance on legal opinions implying guilt?*

B. Continued Reliance on Paul Neazor's Opinion

1. *Has the PSC assessed whether continued reliance by NZ Police on Paul Neazor's opinion is consistent with:*
 - *Justice Taylor's findings,*
 - *the effect of a free pardon,*
 - *public service integrity obligations?*

2. *Has the PSC taken any steps to require correction, clarification, or withdrawal of Police statements implying Arthur Allan Thomas' guilt following his pardon?*

If not, please explain why not.

C. Comparison with McSkimming Case

1. *Please provide the PSC's internal criteria or reasoning for:*
 - *engaging actively in the McSkimming matter, including assessing fitness for office prior to criminal proceedings; and*
 - *not taking comparable action in relation to ongoing Police conduct affecting Arthur Allan Thomas, notwithstanding a Royal Commission, parliamentary findings, and a free pardon.*
2. *What distinctions does the PSC draw between:*
 - *allegations against McSkimming and*
 - *ongoing conduct by Richard Chambers that undermines parliamentary sovereignty and the rule of law?*

D. OIA Non--Response and Oversight

1. *What awareness does the PSC have of the Police Commissioner's repeated failure to respond to Official Information Act requests from Arthur Allan Thomas (submitted 9 September 2025, with multiple follow--ups)?*
2. *Has the PSC considered whether such non--response is consistent with:*
 - *public service leadership standards,*
 - *section 3 of the Official Information Act (binding the Crown),*
 - *or public service integrity obligations?*

E. Conflicts of Interest and Prior Involvement

1. *Please identify any prior involvement, advisory role, or decision--making role by:*
 - *the Public Service Commissioner,*
 - *the Deputy Public Service Commissioner, or*
 - *any PSC senior staff*
in matters relating to:
 - *the Crewe murders,*
 - *the Thomas Royal Commission of Inquiry,*
 - *NZ Police legal positions concerning Arthur Allan Thomas,*
 - *or public statements relating to Paul Neazor's opinion.*

2. Please confirm what conflict-of-interest assessments (if any) were undertaken by the PSC in relation to the above matters.

F. Records Requested

1. Please provide copies of:
 - PSC briefings, emails, advice, or memoranda concerning Arthur Allan Thomas;
 - communications between the PSC and NZ Police relating to Justice Taylor's findings;
 - communications between the PSC and Ministers relating to either the Thomas matter or the McSkimming matter, insofar as they inform comparative treatment.

Information does not exist

The Public Service Commission (the Commission) does not hold any information relevant to your request above. The Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) applies to information that is held. The Commission does not hold any recorded information expressing an opinion on these matters. Therefore, we are refusing your request in full under section 18(e) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

In addition, with regards to Part D of your request, if you are not satisfied with a response to an OIA request you have received, the appropriate authority for you to seek and investigation and review of the decision is the Ombudsman. Information on how you can do this can be found at the link below.

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