



28 April 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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**Official Information Request**

**Our Ref: OIA 2026-0070**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission (the Commission) on 31 March 2026 for:

*“Requesting copies of all relevant communications, messages & reports between Mark Mitchell’s office and PSC during the entirety of 2024 Police Commissioner appointment process”*

**Information publicly available**

Listed in the table below are the appointment papers related to the 2024 Police Commissioner appointment which are publicly available on the Commission’s website at the links also provided in the table.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
1	6 September 2024	2024-0268 – Report – Progressing the Police Commissioner appointment	<a href="https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf">https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf</a>
2	12 September 2024	2024-0272 – Aide Memoire – Vacancy Paper for Police Commissioner	<a href="https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf">https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf</a>
3	11 November 2024	2024-0244 – Report – Police Commissioner appointment Advice on nomination	<a href="https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf">https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf</a>

4	12 November 2024	2024-0266 – Report – Commissioner of Police Appointment papers for lodging	<a href="https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf">https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf</a>
5		CABINET PAPER - Vacancy – Commissioner of Police, NZ Police APH Minute – APH-24-SUB-0209	<a href="https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf">https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf</a>
6		CABINET PAPER – Appointment – Commissioner of Police, NZ Police Position Description and Summarised CV CAB Minute - CAB-24-MIN-0452 Warrant	<a href="https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf">https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Appointment-New-Zealand-Police-Commissioner.pdf</a>

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the OIA – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available. Some information will continue to be withheld as outlined in the documents.

### **Information being withheld**

There are additional documents covered by your request relating to the recruitment process for the appointment of the Police Commissioner that I have decided to withhold in full under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- section 9(2)(b)(a)(ii) – to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest
- section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege.

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](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 response (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**