Public Service Commission
Te Kawa Mataaho

2 June 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request
Our Ref: OIA 2026-0096

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission Te Kawa Mataaho (the Commission) on 21 April 2026 for:

1. ***All-of-Government Cloud, Infrastructure, and Productivity Contracts***

   For any current AoG or whole-of-government contracts, panel arrangements, or price agreements relating to cloud computing, digital infrastructure, or productivity software — including but not limited to agreements with Microsoft, Google, and Amazon Web Services — please provide:

   - *Any contract documents, memoranda of understanding, or heads of agreement between MBIE (or the Crown) and each provider*
   - *Any request for proposal (RFP), tender documentation, or procurement evaluation reports produced in connection with each agreement*
   - *Any value-for-money assessments, market comparison reports, or competitive analysis documents produced prior to entering or renewing each agreement*
   - *Any Cabinet papers, ministerial briefings, or internal briefing notes relating to the decision to enter or renew each agreement*
   - *Any documents assessing data sovereignty, data residency, or national security risks in connection with any of these agreements*

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2. All-of-Government AI Tools

For any current AoG or cross-agency arrangements relating to artificial intelligence tools or services — including but not limite

d to Microsoft Copilot, OpenAI/ChatGPT, and Google Gemini please provide:

- *Any contract documents, licence agreements, or price schedules for AI products procured under an AoG or whole-of-government arrangement*
- *Any RFP, tender documentation, or procurement evaluation reports produced in connection with any such arrangement*
- *Any risk assessments, privacy impact assessments, or security assessments produced in connection with the procurement or use of AI tools across government*

3. Government-Wide AI Policy and Guidance

Please provide:

- *Any policy documents, frameworks, guidelines, or circulars issued by MBIE, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, or any central agency, relating to the use of AI tools by public servants*
- *Any approved or preferred provider lists for AI tools issued to government agencies*
- *Any Cabinet papers or ministerial briefing notes relating to the adoption of AI tools across the New Zealand public service*

4. Digital Sovereignty and Vendor Dependency

Please provide any of the following documents held by MBIE:

- *Any briefing papers or reports to Ministers on New Zealand's strategic reliance on overseas digital infrastructure or cloud service providers*
- *Any risk registers, risk assessments, or review documents concerning vendor lock-in risks in AoG ICT arrangements*
- *Any Cabinet papers, strategy documents, or policy reviews addressing data sovereignty or the concentration of government ICT dependency among a small number of overseas providers*

Our Response

On 1 May 2026, we sought refinement of Parts 1 and 2 of your requests and followed up on 7 May 2026 but received no response from you.

Substantial Collation - Part 1, Bullets 1, 2, 3 and 5

There are approximately 500 suppliers currently listed on Marketplace (GDDA's digital procurement platform), across dozens of categories and sub-categories. Some suppliers operate across multiple categories, and have separate agreements in place for each sub-category they operate in. Alongside Marketplace, there are other All of Government contracts GDDA also manages, further adding to the administrative burden of this request. The topics outlined in your response did not assist in reducing the scope of your request.

We have considered your request and determined that, due to its broad scope and the absence of any time limitation on the information sought, responding would require a substantial amount of collation and research. In accordance with section 18(f) of the OIA, we are therefore refusing your request on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. We would be willing to consider a refined request that is more specific in scope or timeframe. You can do so by emailing us at enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz

Information does not exist

We are refusing the following parts of your request (as listed below) under section 18(e) of the OIA, on the grounds that the information requested does not exist.

Part 1, Bullet 4

All-of-Government contractual agreements do not require Ministerial or Cabinet endorsement to enter into or renew.

Part 2, Bullets 1, 2 and 3

Currently, there are no specific contract documents or license agreements for AI products procured under an All of Government arrangement. The All of Government Cloud Framework Agreements (CFAs) allow for the consumption of AI products. However, the CFAs are not specifically aimed at procurement of AI functionality, nor is it the core intention of the CFAs.

Part 3, Bullet 2

Currently, there is no specific list of approved or preferred suppliers of AI tools issued to government agencies. As noted above, CFAs only allow for the consumption of AI products. However, as a part of the Public Service AI Work Programme, an AI Marketplace Ecosystem is being developed to increase safe and responsible AI procurement through new AI categories in Marketplace. As with other Marketplace offerings, this will have a

list of approved suppliers for AI.

Part 3, Bullet 3

We have interpreted this part of your request for *Any Cabinet papers or ministerial briefing notes relating to the* "adoption of AI tools across the New Zealand Public Service" as procurement of specific AI tools, consistent with the previous parts of your request.

Information publicly available - Part 3, Bullet 1

The following information is also covered by this part of your request and is publicly available on the govt.nz website at the links provided for in the table below. The Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) has also launched the *Toolkit*, which consolidates resources to support Public Service agencies in planning, implementing and managing AI technologies safely and responsibly, which can also be found at the link provided in the table below.

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the table below under section 18(d) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Item	Document Description	Website Address
1	Public Service AI Framework	https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-artificial-intelligence-framework
2	Responsible AI Guidance for the Public Service: GenAI	https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/responsible-ai-guidance-for-the-public-service-genai
3	Public Service AI toolkit	https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-ai-toolkit

Information released - Part 4, Bullets 1, 2 and 3

Please find listed in the table below documents in scope of this part of your request, that I have decided to release, subject to information being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA in order to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

Item	Date	Document Description	Decision
4	7 November 2024	Cloud First Policy update, including multi-Cloud requirement	Released in part

There are additional documents covered by your request that I have decided to withhold in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA in order to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Yours sincerely



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

Priority Routine

Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

Digitising Government briefing

Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister for Digitising Government

Title: **Cloud First policy update including multi-cloud requirement**

Date: 7 November 2024

Executive Summary

This briefing provides you with detail on our recent work to update Government's Cloud First policy and seeks your endorsement to update the policy as follows:

- reiterate that agencies must adopt standardised, commercial off the shelf options through the GCDO Cloud Framework Agreements;
- require agencies to implement a multi-cloud policy to ensure resilient digital infrastructure, maximise flexibility and utility, and avoid becoming overly dependent on any specific suppliers;
- reiterate that agencies are permitted to locate their data classified RESTRICTED and below offshore in cloud infrastructure as per existing guidelines; and
- ensure agencies utilise cloud in an optimal way to manage costs through use of cloud management (optimisation) tools.

These updates will support the efficiency, utility and resilience of the Public Service agencies use of cloud. Implementation of the policy changes will be managed by agencies.

Action sought	Timeframe
Endorse the amendments to the Cloud First Policy recommended by this briefing.	At your convenience

Contact for telephone discussions (if required)

Name	Position	Contact Number	Suggested 1st contact
Paul James	Chief Executive	s9(2)(a)	✓
Amy Allison	Director Strategy	s9(2)(a)	

Return electronic document to	phil.weir@dia.govt.nz and mari.newcombe@dia.govt.nz
Cohesion document reference	4UAZY7VS6QRJ-949676227-970
Ministerial database reference	DG20244791

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Purpose

1. This briefing:

   1.1 provides you with detail on our recent work to update Government's Cloud First policy, and

   1.2 seeks your endorsement to update the Cloud First policy and include a requirement for agencies to implement a 'multi-cloud' approach.

Background

2. The Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) is responsible for the Government's policy for public cloud services.

3. In April 2023, Cabinet agreed to a refreshed Cloud First policy,[1] which requires government organisations to: move away from on-premises systems and infrastructure; safely store information; and assess the risks of adoption decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Rationale for an update to the cloud policy

4. While the increasing uptake of cloud services by Public Service agencies is positive overall, there are challenges that need to be managed.

5. There has been growing dependence upon a fewer number of suppliers and this requires consideration to ensure we have adequate availability, security and resilience. By using broader base of cloud suppliers, commonly referred to as adopting a multi-cloud approach, agencies can spread their risks. We believe that it is now the right time to implement a **multi-cloud policy** across the Public Service for the following reasons:

   5.1 **Increased resilience to service disruptions (outages).** Recent international outages have demonstrated the risks of over-reliance on single vendors;

   5.2 **Stronger national negotiating power, and mitigation of rising long-term costs.** The Public Service may face increased costs if it becomes too dependent on single vendors, leading to vendor lock-in. New Zealand's smaller market size could make it challenging to negotiate with technology suppliers;

   5.3 **Mitigation of security risks.** A concentration of cloud infrastructure around a small number of suppliers may increase the exposure to security threats, international supply chains, and vendors from countries with conflicting interests;

   5.4 **Long-term flexibility and utility.** Fewer supplier alternatives can lead to lower overall flexibility and utility; and

   5.5 **Economic opportunities for New Zealand.** Reliance on a few suppliers could stifle innovation, inhibit capability and skill development, and create barriers.

[1] ERS-23-MIN-0019 refers.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Policy changes recommended

6. The main updates to the Cloud First policy recommended are as follows:

    - Reiterate that agencies adopt standardised, commercial off the shelf (COTS), options through the GCDO Cloud Framework Agreements (CFAs) where available;
    - Require Public Service agencies to implement a multi-cloud policy to ensure resilient digital infrastructure, maximise flexibility and utility, and avoid becoming overly dependent on any specific suppliers;
    - Reiterate that Public Service agencies are permitted to locate their data classified RESTRICTED and below offshore in cloud infrastructure as per existing guidelines (see 2023 'Cloud Jurisdictional Risk guidance'[2]); and
    - Ensure agencies utilise cloud in an optimal way to manage costs through use of cloud management (optimisation) tools.

Other agency-led policy updates

7. We also intend to request that relevant agencies update related polices within their ambit. This could include the: Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB), reference to security and resilience requirements within the New Zealand Information Security Manual (NZISM); the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) around critical national infrastructure and national security and national resilience aspects; and the Ministry of Business Innovation and Business (MBIE) procurement rules to ensure they reflect national resilience risks.

Next steps

8. With your endorsement, we will update the All-of Government Cloud First policy to reflect the updates noted, work with relevant agencies as required to update their policies, and support implementation across the Public Service. This will include updating the Cloud policy and guidance on digital.govt.nz[3] as well as proactive communications to agencies and suppliers around the updated policy expectations.
9. The GCDO will establish new targets for cloud migration for agencies which will be monitored alongside their implementation of the multi-cloud policy. GCDO oversees the Cloud Framework Agreements (CFA)[4] with the primary public cloud suppliers, which is a mechanism by which we can drive and monitor implementation of these policy changes. All Cloud Framework Agreements and supporting information are listed on digital.govt.nz, and the GCDO will continue to provide agencies with information on providers that agencies can go to check via this channel.

Consultation

10. We have noted this policy change to the Government Communications Security Bureau, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

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[2] Cloud Jurisdictional Risk guidance | NZ Digital government

[3] https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/cloud-services

[4] https://www.digital.govt.nz/products-and-services/products-and-services-a-z

Financial implications

11. There are no immediate financial implications associated with this policy change. Additional work is required to implement this policy and we will encourage a cost neutral approach from agencies.

Recommendations

12. We recommend that you **endorse** the amendments to the Cloud First Policy recommended by this briefing. **Yes/No**



Amy Allison
Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Digital Public Service

Hon Judith Collins KC MP
Minister for Digitising Government

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