



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

15 May 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request Our Ref: OIA 2026-0112

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission (the Commission) on 1 May 2026 for:

1. *"Can you please advise the checks that are made at point of public instatement to ensure stipulated controlling groups do not manifeast in collaberative collusion, alignment, financial exclusion to "independent" bodies delivering or enabling others "competitive advantage through conflicts of interest" across multiple sectors simultaneously.*
2. *What percentage of N.Z Public Service CEO, Director Generals are aligned to the groups such as Freemasons, Churches, Societies as requested previously!"*

Our response

The below information provides a response to part one of your request.

During the chief executive appointment processes, a candidate's interests are identified and assessed at two points in the process, both prior to the candidate being recommended for appointment or taking up the role:

- Integrity questions: During interviews for chief executive roles, candidates are asked whether there are any matters, real or perceived, that could bring the Public Service or specific department 'into disrepute'. In answering they are asked to think broadly, including about public perception.
- Declaration of interests: Once a candidate is assessed as being appointable – following long and shortlisting, assessment, and interview – they are asked to make a 'declaration of interests' in writing with respect to the specific role to which they have applied. This is prior to the candidate being recommended for appointment, or taking up the role. The candidate is given a declaration of interests form and supporting material to assist them to make informed disclosures. If any interests are declared, the Commission will work with the candidate to determine which (if any) of their interests could give rise to an actual, perceived or potential conflict and where necessary, to develop a management plan. Requiring appointable candidates

to disclose all their interests prior to appointment reduces the risk of an unmanageable conflict being identified post appointment.

Information being withheld

Regarding the second part of your request, and as advised via our letter to you on 1 May 2026, the information you have requested relates to the private beliefs, associations, or memberships of identifiable individuals. This type of information is inherently personal and sensitive in nature and is not connected to the individuals' official duties or the performance of their public roles.

Accordingly, I have decided to withhold this information under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, as its release would intrude unreasonably on the personal privacy of officials. In making this decision, I have considered the public interest in release under section 9(1) of the OIA and am satisfied that it does not outweigh the need to protect personal privacy.

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 response (with your personal details removed) on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Dirks'.

Nicky Dirks

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