



Public Service Commission
Te Kawa Mataaho

12 June 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request
Our Ref: OIA 2026-0164

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission Te Kawa Mataaho (the Commission) on 7 June 2026 for:

Pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982, I request the below from the Public Services Commission and PHF Science regarding a Public Services Commission complaint from 9(2)(a) privacy regarding Te Niwha Director Te Pora Thompson-Evans and the investigation that made PHF Science aware that the Te Niwha director Te Pora Thompson-Evans, managing \$75 million of public taxpayer funds, had bullied a contractor to secretly pay the Te Niwha director personally from their \$2.2m contract, threatening to cancel the contract if she was not secretly given funds.

- 1. any governance communications that acknowledged the wrongdoing, if any, towards the complainant*
- 2. any monitoring response following the investigation*
- 3. any governance review undertaken following the investigation findings, regarding the scope of approvals for the Te Niwha Director, if any.*
- 4. Any decisions relating to Te Pora Thompson-Evans' suitability to continue in a director and leadership role managing millions of public taxpayer funds.*
- 5. Copies of any conflict-of-interest declarations, investigations, assessments, or reviews undertaken as a result of the allegations.*
- 6. A list of staff and governors, their names and roles of all who received either a summary or copy of the complaint or findings from the investigation.*
- 7. The name of the person/s responsible for the decision to invite Te Pora Thompson-Evans to the 2025 Organisation's National conference to be honoured in front of New Zealand's top scientists in the sector of Pandemic Sciences, weeks and months following the investigation being complete, while Te Pora Thompson-Evans was no longer in the director role.*
- 8. Any recommendation / support letters that were provided from Te Niwha / PHF Science to the Ministry of Health Pandemic Science Advisory Group of*

which Te Pora Thompson-Evans is a current board member receiving taxpayer funds towards her fees.

Information not held

On 5 June 2025, the Commission received a protected disclosure from you, that we transferred to PHF Science for their action on 4 July 2025. On 8 August 2026, the Commission received a copy of PHF Science response to you.

Outside of these communications, the Public Service Commission does not hold any of the information you have requested. In these circumstances, we are required to transfer your request under section 14(b) of the Official Information Act 1982 to the agency we believe holds the information. However, as you have also sent this request directly to PHF Science, we do not see it necessary to formally transfer your request on this occasion.

Therefore, we are refusing your request in full under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

You will hear further from PHF Science in respect of your request to them.

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



Nicky Dirks

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