



Public Service Commission

Te Kawa Mataaho

23 July 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Act Request Transfer

Our ref: OIA 2026-0206

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 3 July 2026 for

OIA 2026/13: Point of clarification on whether NZP and NZDF are subject to the public service principles set out in the Public Service Act 2020

Our understanding is that the New Zealand Police and the New Zealand Defence Force are not part of the Public Service as defined under the Public Service Act 2020 and are therefore not directly subject to the statutory responsibilities imposed by section 12 of that Act on public service chief executives. We understand that both organisations instead operate under their own governing legislation, the Policing Act 2008 and the Defence Act 1990 respectively, and within the broader constitutional conventions and expectations reflected in the Cabinet Manual.

Could the Commission confirm whether this understanding is correct and, if so, identify the relevant provisions of the Public Service Act 2020, the Policing Act 2008, the Defence Act 1990 and any applicable Cabinet Manual paragraphs that describe the status of NZ Police and NZDF in relation to the public service principles?

Following our letter of 20 July 2026, we have now transferred the parts of your request relating to the Policing Act 2008 and the NZ Police to the NZ Police, as the information to which your request relates is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of NZ Police. In these circumstances, we are required by section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 to transfer your request.

You will hear further from NZ Police concerning the relevant parts of your request. They can be contacted on ministerial.services@police.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

Nicky Dirks

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