



Public Service Commission

Te Kawa Mataaho

23 July 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2026-0215

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission Te Kawa Mataaho (the Commission) on 10 July 2026:

“This is a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

This request is not asking the Crown to target any religion. It asks whether religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, and community organisations receive public funding, foreign funding, charitable tax treatment, settlement support, security support, or other state benefits, and what oversight, disclosure, AML/CFT, extremist-financing, foreign-influence, and public-safety safeguards apply.

For clarity, this request is not limited to one religion. It applies to all religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, and community organisations, including churches, mosques, temples, religious trusts, cultural trusts, community associations, migrant organisations, settlement organisations, and charitable entities.

I request information for the period 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2025 concerning foreign funding, public funding, charitable status, tax treatment, financial oversight, and AML/CFT monitoring of religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, and community organisations operating in New Zealand.

Please provide:

- 1. The total amount of government funding, grants, contracts, subsidies, settlement funding, community funding, security funding, social-cohesion funding, or other public money paid to religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community organisations from 2020 to 2025.*
- 2. A breakdown by:*
 - organisation name;*
 - legal entity name;*

- *charity registration number, if applicable;*
 - *religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community purpose stated by the organisation;*
 - *amount received;*
 - *funding agency;*
 - *funding programme;*
 - *purpose of funding;*
 - *year paid.*
3. *The number of registered charities operating as religious organisations, religious trusts, mosques, Islamic centres, churches, temples, cultural trusts, ethnic trusts, or migrant community organisations, broken down by year and entity type.*
 4. *Any records showing foreign donations, foreign grants, overseas transfers, overseas sponsors, overseas religious bodies, foreign governments, foreign foundations, or overseas-linked funding received by registered religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community organisations, where held.*
 5. *Any records showing whether foreign-funded religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community organisations are subject to AML/CFT, charities, tax, foreign-interference, counter-terrorism financing, or national-security monitoring.*
 6. *Any policies, risk assessments, audits, compliance reviews, investigation summaries, or ministerial briefings concerning:*
 - *foreign influence through religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community organisations;*
 - *extremist financing;*
 - *terrorist financing;*
 - *money laundering risks;*
 - *overseas funding of religious institutions;*
 - *use of charities for political, ideological, extremist, or foreign-influence purposes;*
 - *risks to social cohesion or public safety.*
 7. *Any records showing whether government has assessed the public cost, public benefit, or public-risk profile of funding religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community organisations.*
 8. *Any records showing whether public money has been used for:*
 - *mosque security;*
 - *church security;*
 - *synagogue security;*
 - *temple security;*
 - *religious-school support;*

- *migrant settlement services;*
 - *ethnic community programmes;*
 - *anti-racism or social-cohesion programmes;*
 - *religious or cultural education programmes.*
9. *Any records showing whether organisations receiving public money are required to disclose:*
- *overseas donors;*
 - *political or religious affiliations;*
 - *foreign government links;*
 - *ideological affiliations;*
 - *trustees, directors, or controlling persons;*
 - *beneficial owners;*
 - *related-party entities;*
 - *overseas parent bodies.*
10. *Any records showing enforcement action, warnings, deregistration, investigations, referrals, suspicious activity reporting, or compliance concerns involving religious, cultural, ethnic, migrant, or community organisations from 2020 to 2025.*
11. *If any information is not held by your agency, please transfer the relevant part of this request under section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982 and identify the agency likely to hold it.*

This request is made in the public interest to understand whether criminal offending, enforcement outcomes, public funding, foreign money, financial oversight, and public-safety safeguards are being measured and applied consistently and transparently.”

Our response

The Commission does not hold the information you have requested.

Ordinarily under section 14(b) of the OIA we are required to transfer your request to the agency we believe holds the information or to the agency to whom your request most closely relates to the function of.

We note that you also sent your request to the Department of Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Treasury, New Zealand Police and the Ministry of Social Development. The information you have sought is more closely connected with the functions of those agencies. On that basis, we do not consider it necessary to formally transfer your request on this occasion.

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