



14 August 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request
Our Ref: OIA 2026-0223

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

Under the Official Information Act 1982, I request information about the coordination of AI-related risk management across the New Zealand Government.

Please provide:

1. *Any current document that identifies the agency or agencies responsible for coordinating cross-government AI governance, assurance, or risk management.*
2. *Any current document that sets out:*
 - *how responsibilities are divided between those agencies;*
 - *the authority or powers attached to those responsibilities; and*
 - *the mechanisms used to coordinate this work across government, including their membership and the agencies represented.*
 - *formal mechanisms through which external organisations, researchers, industry or civil society contribute to the development of the Government's approach to AI governance and AI-related risk management, including any advisory panels, communities of practice, working groups or reference groups.*
3. *The current cross-government work programme, plan, or equivalent document for AI governance, assurance, or risk management.*
4. *The number of full-time equivalent staff and the budget allocated by the GCDO to this work for the current financial year.*

Information publicly available – Parts one and three

In July 2023, the Public Service Commissioner asked the Government Chief Digital Officer (GCDO) to lead the use of AI in the public service. The GCDO is responsible for:

- leading AI use as the digital system lead

- setting standards
- guiding government organisations in adopting and using AI
- working with providers of AI technology.

In July 2024, as part of setting a strategic approach for AI in New Zealand, Cabinet set expectations for government agencies using AI technologies. Cabinet agreed that government agencies should be encouraged to adopt AI for its benefits, while managing the risks, and noted the role of the GCDO in leading work to accelerate responsible use of AI across public services, to deliver better outcomes for all New Zealanders.

The Public Service AI Work Programme lays out a 2-year plan of AI initiatives to improve public services and modernise government for New Zealanders. The work programme aims to accelerate the uptake of AI through the public service by modelling best practice in safe and responsible AI use.

The following information is covered by your request and is or soon will be publicly available on the websites at the links provided for 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 that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1	July 2023	The GCDO's role in AI	https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/gcdo-role
2	July 2024	Cabinet Paper: Approach to work on Artificial Intelligence (prepared by Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment).	https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/28913-approach-to-work-on-artificial-intelligence-proactiverelase-pdf
3	January 2026	The Public Service AI Work Programme	https://www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance/technology-and-architecture/artificial-intelligence/public-service-ai-work-programme
4	August 2026	AI Assurance Model	Publicly available soon at https://www.digital.govt.nz/

Information does not exist – Parts two and four

The Commission does not hold any information relating to part two of your request, which seeks documents detailing cross-government AI governance structures, agency responsibilities, and external advisory mechanisms. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

The Commission also does not hold information relating to part four of your request, which seeks the number of full-time equivalent staff and the budget allocated by the GCDO to this work for the current financial year. The Commission does not maintain budget information in a way that identifies staff or expenditure dedicated specifically to "*cross-government AI governance, assurance, or risk management*". Nor is our workforce structured into discrete categories reflecting those activities. Providing the information requested would therefore require the creation of new information through the analysis and assignment of roles, responsibilities, and expenditure. I am therefore refusing part four of your request under section 18(g)(i) of the OIA, as the information requested is not held.

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



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Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission