**Public Service Commission**
Te Kawa Mataaho

14 October 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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**Official Information Act Request**
**Our Ref: OIA 2026-0279**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission Te Kawa Mataaho (the Commission) on 26 August 2026:

> *"Please release the following information under the Act, in relation to the appointment of Anna Adams KC as Solicitor-General and Chief Executive of the Crown Law Office (announced March 2026):*
>
> 1. *A description of the appointment process followed, including the composition of any panel, the role of the Commission, and the role of the Attorney-General.*
> 2. *All documents recording the process design and criteria for the appointment (I do not seek information about unsuccessful candidates).*
> 3. *Any due-diligence, probity or conflict-of-interest assessment undertaken in respect of the successful candidate, including any assessment of prior professional associations relevant to the office's functions, and any resulting conditions, undertakings or management arrangements.*
> 4. *Any advice provided to the Attorney-General or Cabinet on managing conflicts of interest arising from the appointment".*

**Our Response**

The Commission managed the Solicitor-General appointment process on behalf of the Attorney-General in the exercise of the Attorney-General's law officer functions. The information generated or received through that process is held by the Commission solely as agent for, and on behalf of, the Attorney-General acting in that capacity. That information therefore falls outside the definition of official information in section 2(f) of the OIA.

If the information was within scope of the OIA, I would have withheld information under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(ii) and 9(2)(g)(i) to the extent it is not already publicly available because doing so is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, confidences, and maintain the effective conduct of public affairs, and that is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

The following information is covered by your request and is publicly available on the Commission's website at the links provided for in the table below.

| Item | Date | Document Description | Website Address |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Appointment Papers – Solicitor-General and Chief Executive, Crown Law Office | | https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Solicitor-General-and-Chief-Executive-Crown-Law-Office.pdf |

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**