Public Service Commission
Te Kawa Mataaho

13 October 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Act Request
Our Ref: OIA 2026-0319

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission Te Kawa Mataaho (the Commission) on 2 October 2026:

> "*…since July 2020 has the PSC always put the public interest first when:*
>
> *(a) responding to OIA requests by whistleblowers?*
>
> *(b) dealing with alleged cases of retaliation against legitimate whistleblowers by government agencies?*"

Our response

The Commission responds to requests for information in accordance with the OIA, which includes considering the public interest where relevant. Our approach does not change based on whether the requestor is also a whistleblower under the Protected Disclosures (Protection of Whistleblowers) Act 2022 (PDA).

The PDA clearly sets out that employers must not retaliate against a discloser who is an employee. If the employer retaliates, the employee has a personal grievance under the Employment Relations Act 2000. We respond to any discloser who is raising alleged retaliation by their public service employer.

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.

Yours sincerely



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