Public Service Commission
Te Kawa Mataaho

22 October 2026

9(2)(a) privacy

Dear 9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Act Request
Our Ref: OIA 2026-0338

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request received by the Public Service Commission (the Commission) on 19 October 2026 where you asked:

> *"Can I please request any reports, research or other material relating to the socioeconomic backgrounds of public servants.*
> *In particular, I am interested in whether the Public Service has collected, analysed, or considered collecting information on:*
> - *Parental occupation.*
> - *Parental education.*
> - *First-in-family university attendance.*
> - *Socioeconomic background.*
> - *Social mobility.*
> - *First-generation professionals."*

Our response

The Commission collects and publishes workforce information about the Public Service through a range of workforce data collections, including Te Taunaki Public Service Census and other workforce reporting. The data we collect gives us information about management in the Public Service, public servant remuneration/pay, diversity and inclusion, Māori Crown engagement and understanding, as well as public sector composition. However, the collections do not include information relating to parental occupation, parental education, first-in-family university attendance, socioeconomic background, social mobility, or first-generation professional status.

The Commission has previously considered collecting socioeconomic background information through Te Taunaki Public Service Census. However, after considering the limited number of questions that can be included, socioeconomic background questions were not incorporated. Accordingly, the Commission does not hold any reports, research, analysis, or datasets relating to the matters identified in your request.

I am therefore refusing your request in full under section 18(e) of the OIA on the grounds the information requested does not exist.

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 letter (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