



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

18 March 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

9(2)(a) privacy

Official Information Request

Our Ref: PSCR 2025-0169

I refer to your official information request received on 18 February 2025:

"I request the following under the OIA, relating to this NZ Herald article <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/economy/public-service-commissioner-sir-brian-roche-considers-axing-government-entities/OGUNL5EPQZD6POOB6ANKQ6WVAE/>:

- *Copies of any internal discussions or analyses regarding the structure and number of public service agencies, departments, or entities, including any evaluations or reviews.*
- *Copies of any reports or documents exploring the efficiency, duplication, or possible need to streamline government agencies.*
- *Copies of any communications or internal documents related to Sir Brian Roche's comments on potential restructuring of the public sector, including documents shared with or from the Prime Minister's office, ministers, or other senior public service officials.*
- *Copies of any documents, reports, or internal communications related to Sir Brian Roche's review of the size and structure of the public sector, including those in relation to the involvement of the following chief executives: Peter Mersi (Inland Revenue), Andrew Kibblewhite (Ministry of Justice), Andrew Coster (Social Investment Agency), Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone (Ministry for Pacific Peoples), Christine Stevenson (Customs), and James Palmer (Ministry for the Environment). This includes any discussions or analyses regarding the modernisation of the public sector and any potential changes to its structure that may have been considered during this review.*

Where a document that falls under scope of this request cannot be released, please supply a summary of that document's contents. Where any document falls under the scope of this request, please release it in full, including sections which might otherwise be considered out of scope."

Our response

The 18 February 2025 article titled 'Public Service Commissioner Sir Brian Roche considers axing government entities, as Prime Minister Christopher Luxon wants sector simplified' was published after an interview the Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner), Sir Brian Roche gave with the New Zealand Herald.

The Commissioner's responses were based on his own experiences and observations in his first months in the role of Public Service Commissioner and from speaking with Chief Executives, Ministers, public servants, and members of the public.

The Commission does not hold any analyses, reports, documents, communications regarding the structure and number of public service agencies, departments, or entities in relation to the New Zealand Herald article.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds that the information 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 Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



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