



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

10 June 2025

9(2)(a) privacy

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## Official Information Request Our Ref: PSCR 2025-0575

I refer to your official information request received on 27 May 2025 for:

“Paragraph 31 of the Cabinet paper [“Repealing the Plain Language Act 2022”](#) states:

### “Human rights

*31 Repealing the Plain Language Act 2022 does not have implications for human rights.”*

**Please send me all official information held by the Commission used to reach the conclusion in paragraph 31. This information might mention things such as:**

- the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD)
- the Human Rights Act 1993
- the Bill of Rights Act 1990
- other United Nations human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

*I am particularly interested in how the human rights of disabled people were considered in this process, especially [Article 4\(c\)](#) and [Article 9](#) of the UNCRPD.”*

### Information publicly available

As is standard process, the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) assess whether Bills are consistent with the rights and freedoms affirmed in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Their advice on a Bills consistency with the Bill of Rights Act is then provided to the Attorney-General.

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) shared the near-final Plain Language Act Repeal Bill (the Bill) with the MoJ for their assessment. On 6 March 2025 MoJ provided their advice to the Attorney-General, a copy of which is publicly available on the MoJ’s website.

Also publicly available is the departmental disclosure statement prepared by the Commission, which outlines the Commission’s testing of legislative content, specifically international obligations, Treaty of Waitangi obligations and consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990.

These assessments outlined above, formed the basis of the paragraph 31 in the *Repealing the Plain Language Act 2022* Cabinet paper.

Listed in the table below is the information covered by your request as outlined above, which is publicly available on the Ministry of Justice and NZ Legislation Disclosures websites at the links provided for in the table below.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1	6 March 2025	<b>Ministry of Justice Advice:</b> Consistency with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990: Plain Language Act Repeal Bill	<a href="https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/20250324-Plain-Language-Act-Repeal-Bill.pdf">https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/20250324-Plain-Language-Act-Repeal-Bill.pdf</a>
2	18 March 2025	<b>Departmental Disclosure Statement:</b> Plain Language Act	<a href="https://disclosure.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/132/">https://disclosure.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2025/132/</a>

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act 1982 on the grounds the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://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**  
**Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**