



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

10 November 2020

9(2)(a) privacy

Dear 9(2)(a) privacy

## Official Information Request

**Our Ref: 2020-0080**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request dated 7 October 2020, received by Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission (the Commission) on 12 October 2020 where you asked a number of questions in relation to my response to previous correspondence you sent.

For ease of reference, your questions have been listed with our responses directly below.

- ***Why did Ms Nicky Dirks have any role in responding to OIA requests, that were in part about her actions?***
- ***Did Ms Helene Quilter instruct Ms Nicky Dirks to respond?***
- ***Has any other Public Service Commission official have delegated authority to respond to Official Information Act requests?***
- ***Why did Ms Helene Quilter not sign the letter on 15 September 2020?***

As the Managing Principal of the Ministerial Service team I have delegated authority to approve responses to all OIA requests and correspondence received by the Commission.

The Public Service Commissioner, Deputy Public Service Commissioner and all Tier 2 Managers also have the authority to approve responses to OIA requests should I not be available.

Ms Quilter did not sign the letter on 15 September 2020 because as noted above I have the delegated authority to approve responses to OIA requests and correspondence received by the Commission.

- ***What date was Ms Helene Quilter given the correspondence on 17 August 2020?***

Ms Quilter received your correspondence on 24 August 2020.

- ***Did Ms Helene Quilter read all of it? If so, what parts?***

No.

- ***What date did you inform Ms Nicky Dirks of the following, “on the receipt of your letter 17 August 2020, the Deputy Public Service Commission had no knowledge of the matter you have outlined in this correspondence” and was Ms Helene Quilter given all of my correspondence by Ms Nicky Dirks, so you could consider its content, context and implications?***

Ms Quilter informed me on 17 August 2020 that she had no knowledge of the matters you outlined in your earlier correspondence.

- ***Was Ms Helene Quilter given all the correspondence by Ms Nicky Dirks so she could consider its context and implications?***
- ***Has Ms Helene Quilter discussed/talked/provided documents in regard to the correspondence 17 August 2020 with the Commissioner Mr Peter Hughes?***
- ***Has Ms Helene Quilter discussed the context with the Solicitor-General and the chief executives of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue Department?***
- ***Has Ms Helene Quilter informed the context of the letter 17 August 2020 to the Prime Minister, Minister Hipkins, Minister Nash***
- ***Have you ensured each of these Ministers have receive the relevant information, if so, how?***

Ms Quilter received the documents dated 7 October 2020 on 12 October 2020 as they were addressed to her.

Ms Quilter has not discussed, talked or provided any documents received from you to the Prime Minister, Minister Hipkins, Minister Nash, the Public Service Commissioner, the Solicitor-General or the chief executives of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, the Department of Internal Affairs, the Inland Revenue Department.

- ***Has Mr Peter Hughes discussed orally or by document the context of my correspondence of 17 Aug 2020 with all or any the people mentioned above (Solicitor-General and the chief executives of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Department of Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue Department)***

No.

- ***Is Mr Peter Hughes the Commissioner still the Commissioner at the time this letter is sent?***

Yes, the current Public Service Commissioner is Peter Hughes.

As we have outlined in our previous correspondence to you the Commission considers the matters you have raised related to “the blitzing of taxpayer letters” to be closed. We will not be taking any action or responding further to you in relation to these matters.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto:Ministerial.Services@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 Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

**Managing Principal – Ministerial Services**  
**Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**