


19 May 2025

File Ref: OIA 50417

Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 2 April 2025. You asked for the following information:

"I am seeking, under the Official Information Act 1982, all documents, including advice, papers and communications relating to the reform of the Waitangi Tribunal since October 2023. That includes communications between officials of your ministry, with officials of other government agencies or parliamentary offices, and/or with ministers".

Your request was originally made to the Ministry of Justice. On 17 April 2025, the Ministry of Justice transferred your request to Te Puni Kōkiri for response.

The Ministry of Justice informed Te Puni Kōkiri that you were seeking "*information relating to the coalition agreement*" and that you were referring to a commitment in the National-New Zealand First coalition agreement to "*Amend the Waitangi Tribunal legislation to refocus the scope, purpose, and nature of its inquiries back to the original intent of that legislation*".

On 1 May 2025, you clarified your request. You agreed to omit "communications" from your request.

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (**Act**). We note for clarity that your request covers the period from October 2023, as stated in your request, to 2 April 2025, the date of your original request.

18 documents have been identified in scope of your request. The documents and my decisions with regard to the release of the information are set out in the table attached as **Appendix A**.

Release of information

We are releasing nine of these documents to you as excerpts in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act. These documents are weekly reports provided to Hon Tama Potaka, Minister for Māori Development, by Te Puni Kōkiri on the respective dates for

the week ahead. Our reason for taking this approach is that these documents are voluminous and contain information outside the scope of your request. These excerpts are provided to you as **Attachment One**.

Some information has been withheld in accordance with the Act under section 9(2)(g)(i) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs though the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

In relation to information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, we are of the opinion that there are no countervailing considerations that make it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available at this time.

The remaining nine documents have been refused in accordance with section 18(d) of the Act. This relates to information that will soon be publicly available, through proactive release. Cabinet papers will be proactively released by Te Puni Kōkiri within 30 business days of final Cabinet decisions.

Minister Potaka has agreed for information on the review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation to be proactively released in tranches. This information is to be published on our website on or before 21 May 2025.

We trust our response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at oia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Paula Rawiri
Hautū, Te Puni Kaupapa | Deputy Secretary, Policy

Appendix A: Documents –request from [REDACTED] dated 2 April 2025

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1.	24 April 2024	Weekly Report: Week commencing 29 April 2024	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act
2.	26 April 2024	Briefing Paper: Scoping a review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation (TPK 48217)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
3.	12 July 2024	Advice to Office: Draft Terms of Reference and Systems Landscape of Te Tiriti o Waitangi (TPK 49074)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
4.	18 July 2024	Advice to Office: Waitangi Tribunal – Terms of Reference (TPK 49171)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
5.	5 September 2024	Weekly Report: Week commencing 9 September 2024	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act
6.	6 September 2024	Briefing Paper: Waitangi Tribunal Review – Establishment Process (TPK 49505)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
7.	18 September 2024	Briefing Paper: Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review – draft Cabinet paper (TPK 49593)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
8.	13 February 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 17 February 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act

9.	20 February 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 24 February 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act
10.	27 February 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 3 March 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act
11.	5 March 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 10 March 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act
12.	13 March 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 17 March 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act
13.	14 March 2025	Briefing Paper: Options Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review (TPK 72004)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
14.	14 March 2025	Draft Cabinet Paper: Coalition Commitment – Review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation (TPK 72004)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
15.	19 March 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 24 March 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information

			withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act
16.	19 March 2025	Draft Cabinet Paper: Coalition Commitment - Review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation (TPK 72004)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
17.	21 March 2025	Aide Memoire: Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review – Process, Next Steps & Roadmap (TPK 72947)	Refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
18.	27 March 2025	Weekly Report: Week commencing 31 March 2025	Excerpt provided under section 16(1)(e) of the Act and some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act

Attachment One: Weekly Report excerpts – OIA request from [redacted] dated 2 April 2025

No.	Details	Excerpts									
1.	Weekly Report: Week commencing 29 April 2024	<table><tr><td>24/04/24</td><td>BP MFMD</td><td>48217 - Scoping a review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation</td><td>Due to office</td></tr></table>	24/04/24	BP MFMD	48217 - Scoping a review of the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation	Due to office					
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3.	Weekly Report: Week commencing 17 February 2025	<p>Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review</p> <p>Following discussions with you, we will provide you with weekly updates on the Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review. The table below outlines the key dates and status of matters relating to the mahi. Consideration has been made regarding alignment with actions being undertaken by the Ministry of Justice.</p> <table><tr><th>Item</th><th>Date (2025)</th><th>Status</th></tr><tr><td>Ministerial/coalition consultation</td><td>9(2)(g)(i)</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Agency consultation</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>	Item	Date (2025)	Status	Ministerial/coalition consultation	9(2)(g)(i)		Agency consultation		
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5. Weekly Report: Week commencing 3 March 2025

Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review

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Item	Date (2025)	Status
Legal Aid paper - Ministerial Consultation	9(2)(g)(i)	
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6.	Weekly Report: Week commencing 10 March 2025	<p>Waitangi Tribunal Legislation Review</p> <p>The table below outlines the key dates and status of matters relating to this mahi. We continue to consider the alignment with actions being undertaken by the Ministry of Justice.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th><th>Date (2025)</th><th>Status</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Legal Aid paper - SOU</td><td>9(2)(g)(i)</td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Ministerial/coalition consultation on your Cabinet paper</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Agency consultation</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Lodge</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Social Outcomes Cabinet Committee</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Cabinet consideration of approach</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Give effect to approach to iwi/hapū input</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Consultation with delegated Ministers</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Item	Date (2025)	Status	Legal Aid paper - SOU	9(2)(g)(i)		Ministerial/coalition consultation on your Cabinet paper			Agency consultation			Lodge			Social Outcomes Cabinet Committee			Cabinet consideration of approach			Give effect to approach to iwi/hapū input			Consultation with delegated Ministers		
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7. Weekly Report: Week commencing 17 March 2025

Waitangi Tribunal Legislation timeframes

We have updated the timeframes for the Panel Review commencement based on your feedback on 10 Poututerangi 2025. We will adjust these and provide other key milestones (e.g., the final report date from the Panel) as confirmed through the Cabinet process.

Item	Date (2025)	Status
Ministerial/coalition consultation on your Cabinet paper	9(2)(g)(i)	
Agency consultation		
Lodge		
Social Outcomes Cabinet Committee		
Cabinet consideration of approach		
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