

2 February 2025

s9(2)(a)

Tālofa lav s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA020-2025/26)

On 12 December 2025, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information in relation to the financial performance of Our Whare Our Fare housing project. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

I am writing under the Official Information Act 1982 to request information relating to the Our Whare Our Fare housing development in eastern Porirua, as reported in recent media coverage.
<https://www.thepost.co.nz/nz-news/360910439/porirua-pasifika-housing-project-welcomes-first-homeowners>

Specifically, I request the following information held by the Ministry:

- 1. The total Crown funding provided to the Our Whare Our Fare project to date, broken down by year and funding mechanism (e.g. grants, appropriations, loans, or other support).*

To date, the Crown has provided a total of \$62.986 million in funding to the Our Whare Our Fare project. All funding has been provided to Central Pacific Collective in the form of grant funding.

The funding released to date is broken down by financial year as follows:

- \$28.611 million in 2023/24 FY.
- \$30.831 million in 2024/25 FY.
- \$3.544 million 2025/26 FY.

- 2. The most recent advice or correspondence discussing why the ministry should be funding the construction of these homes over other agencies.*

Auckland

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South Auckland Mail Centre 2240
P: 09 265 3200

Wellington National Office

Level 7, 1 Bowen House
Wellington, 6011
PO Box 833, Wellington 6143
P: 04 473 4493

Christchurch

Level 1, BNZ Centre
120 Hereford St
Private Bag 4741,
Christchurch 8011

The decision for the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to fund the Our Whare Our Fare project was established through the 2022 Budget process.

The question of whether funding responsibility should sit with another agency was specifically considered in 2023. Advice provided to the former Minister for Pacific Peoples on 26 July 2023, attached as **Appendix 1**, confirmed that the existing funding and delivery arrangements remained appropriate.

Since that time, the project has continued to progress as planned. Given the maturity of the project and the existing cross-agency governance and oversight arrangements, there has been no requirement to revisit or reconsider the funding agency. The Our Whare Our Fare Executive Governance Group, chaired by the Ministry, includes representatives from The Treasury, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Kāinga Ora, and Central Pacific Collective.

Please note, Appendix 1 is released with redactions. Information has been withheld where it relates to draft ministerial correspondence and confidential policy and funding discussions, including consideration of alternative administrative arrangements under the following sections:

1. 9(2)(a), protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
 2. 9(2)(f)(iv), the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
 3. 9(2)(g)(i), the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation.
3. *Copies of any agreements held by the Ministry relating to the land, completed homes prior to sale and with the Central Pacific Collective.*

The Ministry does not hold any land agreements relating to the land or to completed homes prior to sale. Any land agreements for the project are between Central Pacific Collective, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, and Kāinga Ora. The Ministry is not party to those agreements. Therefore, I am refusing this request under section 18(g) of the OIA as this information is not held by the Ministry.

I am satisfied that there are no public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in these documents that are withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

la manuia

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several sweeping, overlapping strokes that form a stylized, elongated shape.

Danilo Coelho de Almeida
Acting Deputy Secretary
Commissioning & Partnerships

Appendix One:

#	DATE	DOCUMENT TITLE	DECISION ON RELEASE
1	26 July 2023	Response to 9 May Letter from Central Pacific Collective	Some information withheld under section • 9(2)(a) • 9(2)(g)(i) • 9(2)(f)(iv)

aide memoire

Update

Date: 26 July 2023

Security Level: In Confidence

For: Hon Barbara Edmonds
Minister for Pacific Peoples

Ref: AM009-2023/24

RESPONSE TO 9 MAY LETTER FROM CENTRAL PACIFIC COLLECTIVE

Purpose To provide you with the positions from the Ministry, the Treasury and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MHUD) in response to the 9 May request from Fa'amatua'inu Tino Pereira, Chief Executive of Central Pacific Collective (CPC) and Pasefika Housing Trust (PHT) to move the *Building Homes for Pacific in Porirua* appropriation to Vote Housing. A draft letter in response to Mr Pereira's 9 May letter has also been provided – **Appendix 1** refers.

Background In his 24 March meeting with you, Mr Pereira requested that the tagged operating contingency funding of up to \$114.611 million through Budget 2022 be moved to Vote Housing and under the management of MHUD. Mr Pereira noted that having the funding sitting with MHUD would enable them to access other funding support that MHUD administers, including the Progressive Home Ownership Fund and Affordable Housing Fund.

On 9 May 2023, CPC and PHT subsequently wrote to you to repeat the request and outlined some more rationale for the proposed shift. On 23 May 2023, you responded in a letter to Mr Pereira, noting that you were seeking advice from your officials and would respond to his concerns upon receiving that advice.

On 27 June 2023 you and the Minister of Finance jointly approved the drawdown of the contingency funding to Vote Pacific Peoples [B097-2022/23 refers]. Mr Pereira is aware that the funding has been drawn down to the Ministry and is requesting a formal response for his boards to consider.

We have consulted with officials from the Treasury and MHUD regarding Mr Pereira's request to transfer the funding.

MHUD position MHUD officials note that there would be some advantages to them managing the CPC project and considering further support, in that knowledge of existing contract performance would be held within one agency. They also note that access to funding they administer would not be adversely affected by the appropriation remaining under Vote Pacific Peoples and the management of the Ministry.

MHUD are not actively seeking or recommending a move of the appropriation to Vote Housing, but instead are wanting to "lean in" more on the project to assist with the technical aspects where they have existing subject matter expertise.

Treasury position

Treasury officials note that:

- They have no specific preference on where the contingency sits. Instead, they are focused on ensuring any arrangements best support the delivery of the initiative and its outcomes
- From a technical perspective there is, in Treasury officials' view, minimal difference between MHUD or the Ministry holding the contingency (in particular, it should not affect CPC's ability to apply for funding through other programmes)
- The Ministry and MHUD both need to be involved in the initiative regardless of who holds the contingency.

In relation to the last point, Treasury officials note that a "by Pacific, for Pacific" approach is essential to ensuring delivery of community outcomes for the project, which is clearly a Ministry capability. MHUD has a significant role to play through its sector capability, oversight of the Progressive Housing Fund and its interest in ensuring alignment with Government expectations for the Eastern Porirua Large Scale Project.

Ministry position

The Ministry position is that the appropriation should stay under Vote Pacific Peoples to ensure that the initiative retains the "by Pacific, for Pacific" focus and approach.

Moving the appropriation to Vote Housing would create a disconnect between an intervention with potential to have a large positive impact on Pacific peoples, and the Ministry with the connections to the Pacific community.

Retaining the appropriation with Vote Pacific Peoples would also ensure that the Minister for Pacific Peoples continues to retain oversight of this project.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Risks/key issues

s9(2)(g)(i)

Next steps

We have provided a draft letter for you to respond to CPC and PHT noting that the appropriation is remaining within Vote Pacific Peoples.

You are meeting with Mr Pereira on 28 July 2023. He will likely raise this issue with you at that meeting and you may like to use that opportunity to provide him with the letter and discuss the contents of this paper.

Ministry contact: Aiono Matthew Aileone, Deputy Secretary – Policy, Evaluation and Research, Housing and Languages s9(2)(a)

Appendices:

- **Appendix 1:** Draft response letter on Our Whare Our Fare appropriation
- **Appendix 2:** Responses to the 9 May letter case for shifting appropriation to MHUD

Hon Barbara Edmonds

MP for Mana

Minister for Economic Development

Minister of Internal Affairs

Minister for Pacific Peoples

Associate Minister for Cyclone Recovery

Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples)

Associate Minister of Housing



s9(2)(f)(iv)

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s9(2)(f)(iv)

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Appendix 2 – Responses to the 9 May letter case for shifting appropriation to MHUD

s9(2)(f)(iv)

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s9(2)(f)(iv)

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