

23 February 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tālofa lava **s9(2)(a)**

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA024-2025/26)

On 26 January 2026, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding waiata and karakia groups. I have outlined your specific request and my response below.

We request the following information under the OIA:

- *The total number of meetings, discussions, or briefings held by the Chief Executive (or their office) since 1 January 2024 relating to waiata and karakia groups, practices, or proposed changes to the frequency of sessions.*
- *Copies of any agendas, minutes, notes, or summaries from these meetings.*
- *Any correspondence (including emails and messages) between senior leadership and the Public Service Association (PSA) regarding groups or proposed changes to how or when they operate.*
- *Any decisions, policies, or guidance issued about waiata group operations, including any review or proposed limitation of sessions.*

These parts of your request have been refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

- *Any internal communications, reports, or advice provided to or from the Chief Executive regarding participation, workplace time allocation, or cultural engagement policies.*

Auckland

9 Ronwood Ave, Manukau
PO Box 97005,
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 Chief Executive's Office holds no reports or formal advice since 1 January 2024 relating to participation requirements, workplace time allocation, or cultural engagement policies. The only relevant material is an internal all staff communication from December 2025, which I have appended to this letter and mentions a voluntary waiata session for Te Iho based staff.

Please note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information 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.

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Lu Avia
Chief Advisor to the Secretary
Executive Office

Appendix – Secretary Newsletter December 2025.**Celebrating Māori Culture: Haka Tu Festival at Pipitea Marae**

On 5 December 2025, the Pipitea Marae in Wellington hosted Haka Tu, a vibrant public sector kapa haka festival. This special event was organised at short notice after the regular annual celebration, Te Kōnohete was cancelled.

Despite the quick turnaround, agencies from across the public sector came together to honour Māori culture through powerful performances, waiata, and tikanga. The Ministry was proudly represented by s9(2)(a) alongside colleagues from Manatū Wāhine | Ministry for Women, Te Tari Kura Hourua | Charter School Agency, Te Manatū Waeture | Ministry for Regulation, Te Tai Ōhanga | The Treasury, and Te Kawa Mataaho | The Public Service Commission.

The group, affectionately named Te Iho, had just two weeks and six short practices - but that didn't stop them! Check out the performances here: s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

And next year for Te Iho staff, please join waiata practice! It's on Mondays in 20.02 from 12-12.30pm.

s9(2)(a)