

9 April 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tālofa lava s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA032-2025/26)

On 11 March 2026, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), about the Needs-based Service Provision Cabinet Office Circular issued on 13 September 2024.

Can a copy of the following please be provided under the OIA:

1. All advice produced regarding the Needs-based Service Provision Cabinet office Circular of 13 September 2024 ([Cabinet Office Circular CO \(24 \) 5: Needs-based Service Provision](#)) and/or the expectations set out in this circular, including any advice around targeting services by ethnicity.

I have identified two items of advice that fall within the scope of this request relating to *Cabinet Office Circular CO (24) 5: Needs based Service Provision*. Further details are outlined below:

- A weekly report entry provided to the Minister for Pacific Peoples, outlining the Ministry's intended actions in response to the Needs based Service Provision Circular CO (24) 5. **Appendix 1** includes the relevant extract from the Weekly Report for the period ending 27 September 2024.
- Advice prepared in response to a Written Parliamentary Question, which is publicly available, click [here](#).

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

2. *All correspondence, sent and received, between the department and Ministers or members of a Minister's office, regarding the expectations set out in the Needs-based Service Provision Cabinet Office Circular*

I have identified two documents that fall within the scope of this request including emails exchanged between the Ministry and the Minister's office. The relevant documents are attached, refer to **Appendix 2 and 3**. Some information has been withheld where the contents are out of scope or 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.

Appendix 2 consists of an email exchange between the Ministry and the Minister for Pacific Peoples. The email includes three attachments, all of which are publicly available. These can be accessed via the following links:

1. [Cabinet Office Circular CO \(24 \) 5: Needs-based Service Provision](#)
 2. [Ensuring Public Services are Based on Need and Contracts are Awarded on Value](#)
 3. [CAB-24-MIN-0321 Min ute.pdf](#)
3. *All advice since 13 September 2024 regarding needs-based service provision and/or targeting services by ethnicity*

The Ministry has not provided any advice according to the needs-based service provision or the targeting of services by ethnicity that came to effect since 13 September 2024. Accordingly, this aspect of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

4. *A copy of all exemptions that have been applied for from the expectations set out in the Needs-based Service Provision Cabinet Office Circular, including any correspondence regarding any such exemptions and whether these exemptions were granted or not.*

The Ministry has not applied for any exemptions in relation to the Needs-based Service Provision Cabinet Office Circular. As no exemption applications have been made, there is no correspondence relating to such applications, and no exemptions have been granted. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

5. *Details of all policy and service changes that have taken place following the expectations set out in the Needs-based Service Provision Cabinet Office Circular, since 13 September 2024, and a copy of all evaluations that have taken place regarding any such policy or service changes.*

The Ministry has interpreted this part of your request as seeking any policy or service changes, or evaluations, resulting from the Needs-based Service Provision Circular CO (24) 5. The Ministry is a public service department established under the Public Service Act 2020. Its mandate, confirmed in 2015, is to act as the principal adviser to Government on achieving better outcomes for Pacific peoples (Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee Minute (15) 16/5 refers).

This mandate is inherently grounded in evidence of need, reflecting the persistent and well documented overrepresentation of Pacific peoples across areas of disadvantage in New Zealand. As such, the Ministry's policy advice, data and insights, and commissioning functions are already based on assessed need rather than ethnicity as a proxy for need and are consistent with the expectations set out in the Cabinet Office Circular on Needs based Service Provision.

Accordingly, no policy or service changes have been required or implemented by the Ministry as a result of the Circular since 13 September 2024. As no changes have been made, no evaluations have been undertaken other than those already embedded as part of usual programme delivery.

This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

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's 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 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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Bernadette Scanlon
Deputy Secretary
Policy & Insights

Appendices: Supporting documents

Document	TITLE	DATE	DECISION
Appendix 1	Weekly Report to the Minister for Pacific Peoples period ending 27 September 2024.	27 September 2024	Extract referring to entry 2.2 of the Weekly Report for the Minister for Pacific Peoples, released in full.
Appendix 2	Email exchange between the Ministry for Pacific Peoples and the Office of the Hon Dr Shane Reti.	16 September 2024	A segment has been redacted as it is out of scope, and some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.
Appendix 3	Email exchange between the Ministry for Pacific Peoples and the Office of the Hon Dr Shane Reti.	26 September 2024	Reference to an attachment has been redacted as it is out of scope and some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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1. DECISIONS SOUGHT THIS WEEK

Out of scope

2. NEED TO KNOW

Out of scope

John Tu'amoheloa, Deputy Secretary, Commissioning & Partnerships

2.2 Update on needs-based service provision

On 16 September 2024, you requested an update on what the Ministry is doing to ensure that our services are prioritised on the basis of need and not race, as per the recent Cabinet Circular (CO (24) 5 refers). The Ministry's mandate is to improve outcomes for Pacific peoples, and our focus is on ensuring our advice, policies, and interventions are underpinned by robust data analysis that demonstrates need. The Ministry has embedded new analytical capabilities that draw data and insights together from its own initiatives, connections with Pacific peoples, and across government. Similarly, the recent signing of the Ministry's Memorandum of Understanding with Stats NZ and our close collaboration with Police and the Ministry of Health are deliberate steps we have taken to clarify data quality expectations, highlight inequitable social outcomes for Pacific peoples and target interventions.

The Ministry's Pacific Healthy Homes Initiative is a key intervention based on evident need and informed by system data. Specifically, we used health system data showing damp homes as a key contributor to significant unmet health need and that Pacific peoples experience inequitable outcomes at younger ages including higher Ambulatory Sensitive Hospitalisation to target our response.

The Ministry will continue to draw on official population statistics, strengthen our empirical evidence base and ensure that our investments remain targeted to need. Officials are available to discuss further.

Dr Corina Grey, Deputy Secretary, Policy & Insights

3. STRATEGIC UPDATES

Out of scope

Appendix 2

From: [Nelson Tiatia \(external\)](#)
To: [Ali Aimal](#); [Corina Grey](#); [Danilo Coelho de Almeida](#); [Gerardine Clifford-Lidstone](#); [John Tuamoheloa](#); [Michelle Kirkwood](#)
Cc: [MinisterialServices](#); [CE Office](#)
Subject: Actions from Officials 16 September 2024
Date: Monday, 16 September 2024 4:19:29 pm
Attachments: [CO \(24\) 5 - Needs-based Service Provision.pdf](#)
[Ensuring Public Services are Based on Need and Contracts are Awarded on Value.pdf](#)
[CAB-24-MIN-0321 Minute.pdf](#)

Hi team,

Please find below the action from MPP’s meeting with the Minister today:

Out of Scope					
2.	Weekly Report for the period ending 13 September 2024	Please provide a weekly report entry about work MPP has done/is doing to address the issues raised in the attached Cabinet circular. The relevant Cabinet paper and minute is also attached.	Weekly report entry	Policy	Thursday 26 September



Nelson Tiatia
Private Secretary Pacific Peoples | Office of Hon Dr Shane Reti
Minister of Health
Minister for Pacific Peoples

M: [s\(9\)\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

Appendix 3

From: [MinisterialServices](#)
To: [Nelson Tiatia \(external\)](#)
Cc: [CE Office](#); [MinisterialServices](#)
Subject: MPP Weekly **Out of Scope** Report - 27 September 2024.
Date: Thursday, 26 September 2024 5:42:01 pm
Attachments: [MPP Weekly Report - 27 September 2024.docx](#)
Out of Scope

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Kia ora Nelson,
For your and the Minister's reading.

Agenda to come.
Nga mihi nui,
Sione Siale *(he/him)*
Senior Advisor
Ministerial Services & Nominations | Executive Office
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