



CABINET OFFICE

24 May 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA OIA-2023/24-0820

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request:[REDACTED] Conflicts of interest

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 30 April 2024. You requested:

I would like to request via the OIA a list of all declared conflicts of interest given by Ministers in the current government.

Information to be withheld

The Cabinet Office holds information about declarations of interest made by Ministers. The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supports Ministers in identifying and managing conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to their portfolios or other ministerial responsibilities. The Cabinet Office met with all Ministers following their appointment, for a confidential discussion about their interests, in line with standard practice and the guidance in the Cabinet Manual.

Having considered your request and the information held, I am withholding this information under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would damage the public interest;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers or officials in the course of their duty.

Successive Ombudsmen have long held the view that Cabinet Office advice to Ministers is inherently confidential. It is in the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess information about conflicts of interest and provide advice to Ministers on how to resolve them. Ministers are encouraged to seek advice from the

4883129

CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: +64 (4) 830 5010. Email: CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz

www.dpmc.govt.nz

Secretary of the Cabinet on a confidential basis. Details regarding conflicts of interest are not generally disclosed, in order to ensure the confidentiality of Cabinet proceedings, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs and in some cases to protect personal privacy.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

Some information will become publicly available

Every year the Cabinet Office proactively releases some information about the management of ministerial conflicts in accordance with an agreement with the Office of the Ombudsman. This information covers transfers of responsibility and arrangements not to receive papers. These annual releases are published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at: <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/ministers-and-their-portfolios/ministers-interests>

Information about certain financial and other interests of MPs (including Ministers) is published on an annual basis in the Register of Pecuniary and Other Specified Interests of Members of Parliament, available at: <https://www.parliament.nz/en/mps-and-electrates/members-financial-interests/>.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Nicola Purvis
Acting Secretary of Cabinet