



CABINET OFFICE

30 August 2024

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA OIA-2024/25-0113

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request: [REDACTED] Ministers present at Cabinet meeting 11 October 2021

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 3 August 2024. You requested:

“Could you please provide me with a list of all Ministers who were present at the Cabinet meeting on Monday 11 October 2021.”

Response to your request

I have decided to refuse your request under section 9(2)(f)(ii) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions which protect collective and individual ministerial responsibility.

The principle of collective responsibility underpins the system of Cabinet government. It reflects democratic principle: the House expresses its confidence in the collective whole of government, rather than in individual Ministers. Acceptance of ministerial office means accepting collective responsibility. Issues are often debated vigorously in the confidential setting of Cabinet meetings. Generally, once Cabinet makes a decision Ministers must support it regardless of their personal views and whether or not they were at the meeting concerned. For this reason, details of Cabinet meetings, including attendance, are not disclosed.

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.

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

[REDACTED]

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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