



CABINET OFFICE

18 December 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA OIA-2024/25-0416

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request: [REDACTED] Recused Ministers up to 5th November**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 6 November 2024. You requested:

*I request the full list of Ministers who have recused themselves from Cabinet discussions on every subject dealt with since the first cabinet meeting after the formation of this Coalition government, up to and including the 5th of November 2024. Please list each discussion subject alongside which Ministers recused themselves for that particular subject.”*

The time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 10 working days because it necessitated consultations to be undertaken before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supports Ministers in identifying and managing conflicts of interest that may arise. It therefore holds information referred to in your request.

Details regarding conflicts of interest disclosed to the Cabinet Office are not generally released, 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. This has been the approach taken by successive administrations over many years because 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 on a confidential basis.

However, I have decided to provide you with some information concerning certain Ministers who have declared an interest and withdrawn from Cabinet discussions.

I set out below the name of the relevant Minister and the subject of the discussion for which they withdrew from a Cabinet meeting, where that information is publicly available. In one case I have not provided the subject of the discussion, as this could

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reveal information about the nature of the Minister's conflict which has not been publicly released. This information has been withheld on the grounds set out below under the heading "additional information withheld".

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Subject of the discussion</b>
Hon Judith Collins	Fast-Track Approvals Bill
Hon Matt Doocey	Fast-Track Approvals Bill
Hon Paul Goldsmith	Online Casino Gaming Duty and Regulation
Hon Shane Jones	Local Government Representation (Māori wards)
Hon Todd McClay	Subject withheld
Hon David Seymour	Dunedin hospital

This is not a complete list of instances where Ministers who had conflicts of interest did not participate in discussions at Cabinet, as in some cases Ministers may not have been present for a discussion for other reasons (for example they were travelling and did not attend the meeting).

#### **Additional information withheld**

The Cabinet Office holds some information which I have decided to withhold about the subject of the discussion when Hon McClay withdrew from a Cabinet meeting due to a conflict of interest. The grounds for withholding this information under the Act are:

1. section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals; and
2. section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where making the information available would be likely to damage the public interest.

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.

Further information about the management of Ministers' interests is available here: [Ministers' interests management | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

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



Rachel Hayward  
**Secretary of the Cabinet**

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