



CABINET OFFICE

18 December 2024

[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA OIA-2024/25-0427

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request: [REDACTED] Conflicts of interest from 1 November 2023

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 request initially received on 8 November 2024. As the request was initially not made by a person listed in section 12(1) of the Act, we have treated your request as being made on 20 November, the date when you provided your name as the person requesting the information.

You requested:

Under the OIA, we would like to please request the following information:

Any records, information, documents held, advice provided to or received regarding conflicts of interests with the Cabinet Office and DPMC in relation to:

*Winston Peters
Shane Jones
Casey Costello
Christopher Luxon
Christopher Bishop
David Seymour*

And any mention of conflicts of interest by any Government Ministers relating to:

*Apriana Dawson (Philip Morris International New Zealand)
David Broome (Philip Morris International New Zealand)
Eric Crampton (New Zealand Initiative)
Sunny Kaushal (Dairy and Business Owners Group)
Cameron Slater
Jordan Williams (NZ Taxpayers Union)
British American Tobacco
Imperial Tobacco (Imperial Brands)*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Te Tari o te Pirimia me te Komiti Matua

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*Philip Morris International
Japan Tobacco International
The New Zealand Taxpayers Union
New Zealand Initiative
New Zealand Food and Grocery Council
Dairy and Business Owners Group
NZ Association of Convenience Stores
Retail New Zealand*

Additionally including any other tobacco or vaping companies not listed above including any employees current or past of these companies.

From 1 November 2023 until the date this OIA request is accepted.”

Information held by the Cabinet Office

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 below which is or will be released on our website ([Ministers' interests management | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)). Our website also has other information about how conflicts of interest are identified, managed and made public (including why only some information about conflicts is released).

Minister	Matter at issue	Nature of conflict	Action taken
Hon Chris Bishop	Potential conflict regarding Wellington International Airport Ltd unrelated to portfolio responsibilities.	Personal	Hon Bishop will not receive papers or participate in certain decisions relating to Wellington International Airport Ltd, effective 23 May 2024.

Minister	Matter at issue	Nature of conflict	Action taken
Hon Chris Bishop	Potential conflict between ministerial responsibilities as Minister for Infrastructure, to decide on which housing and land development projects are to be included in the schedule to the Fast-track Approvals Bill and an association interest, having previously made public comment about Winton Land Limited's Sunfield development in Auckland.	Association	Responsibilities as Minister for Infrastructure to decide on which housing and land development projects are to be included in the schedule to the Fast-track Approvals Bill transferred to Hon Brown on 18 September 2024. Actions (1), (2), (3) and (4) put in place. ¹
Hon Shane Jones	Potential conflict regarding local government representation (Māori wards) unrelated to portfolio responsibilities.	Personal	Hon Jones will not receive papers or participate in certain decisions relating to local government representation (Māori wards). ²

¹ The actions are:

- (1) officials will report directly to the Acting Minister (recipient of the transfer) on matters connected to the conflicted project inclusion decision;
- (2) any information relating to the conflicted project inclusion decision will be referred to the Acting Minister;
- (3) the Minister with the conflict of interest will not take part in the conflicted project inclusion decision and will not receive relevant parts of Cabinet papers or official papers or reports relating to that conflicted project inclusion decision; and
- (4) when a conflicted project inclusion decision is discussed at Cabinet committee or Cabinet meetings, the relevant Minister will declare their interest and withdraw from that part of the relevant meeting.

² Further information about this conflict in relation to Hon Jones is publicly available here: [Response to Official Information Act request OIA-2023/24-0970: Information relating to Shane Jones' potential conflict of interest - July 2024 - Cabinet Office; Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.](#)

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Minister	Matter at issue	Nature of conflict	Action taken
Hon Shane Jones	<p>Potential conflict between ministerial responsibilities as Minister of Regional Development, to decide on which mining, quarrying and aquaculture and farming projects are to be included in the schedule to the Fast-track Approvals Bill and interests in the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Aupouri Fisheries Management Ltd (personal) • James Murray Aquaculture Ltd (personal) • Taharoa Ironsands Ltd (3 projects) (pecuniary) • Kings Quarry Ltd (personal) • Katikati Quarries Ltd (pecuniary) • Matamata Metal Supplies (pecuniary) 	Personal and pecuniary	Responsibilities as Minister of Regional Development to decide on which mining, quarrying and aquaculture and farming projects are to be included in the schedule to the Fast-track Approvals Bill transferred to Hon Potaka on 4 September 2024. Actions (1), (2), (3) and (4) put in place. ³
Hon David Seymour	Potential conflict regarding Dunedin Hospital unrelated to portfolio responsibilities.	Personal	Hon Seymour will not receive papers or participate in certain decisions relating to Dunedin Hospital.

Additional information withheld

There is additional information covered by your request that I have decided to withhold. The grounds for withholding this information under the Act are:

1. section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
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
3. section 9(2)(f)(ii), to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility
4. section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials

³ The actions are those specified in footnote 1 above.

5. section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of Cabinet