



3 March 2025



Ref: OIA-2024/25-0580

Tēnā koe ,

Official Information Act request relating to the DPMC Chief Executive's work communications outside of work hours

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request about the number of work communications the Chief Executive (CE) of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) sent and received outside work hours in July 2024.

Your original request of 23 January 2025 was for:

"I am interested in the work life balance of public service leadership. This request is going to multiple agencies.

Could you please let me know the following:

In the month of July 2024

- how many phone calls/txts/emails did your ceo/head of agency send/receive after 6pm (please break down by sent/received)*
- how many of those were sent/received after 10pm*
- how many days during this month did they respond to a message after 6pm*
- how many txts/emails/phone calls did they make on a Saturday or Sunday*

I don't need copies of the communications, but note I am only interested in work related communications.

If someone was acting in the role at any point over the period, please count their communications over the period of cover too.

If you do not hold phone data for this period (July 2024) you can choose another month, but I will then need an explanation of why you have not retained july information."

On 31 January 2025 we consulted you about your request and explained the difficulties with compiling the information you had requested. In particular, this related to the compilation of text and other electronic messages by date and time, and the lack of information readily available on times and dates for phone calls. There was additional complexity involved with periods in July 2024 where there was an Acting Chief Executive.

In the light of the above, you refined your request on 7 February 2025. Thank you for your engagement, which has helped us to be able to respond to your request. The refinement of your request was:

"... as it [the request] related to emails only and for the Chief Executive of DPMC – so to exclude any time when there was an Acting Chief Executive in July 2024."

This means your refined request was for:

"In the month of July 2024

- *how many ... emails did [the DPMC CE – excluding periods in July 2024 when there was an Acting CE] send/receive after 6pm (please break down by sent/received)*
- *how many of those were sent/received after 10pm*
- *how many days during this month did they respond to a message after 6pm*
- *how many ... emails ... did they make on a Saturday or Sunday.”*

We also noted your interpretation of a working day as starting at 8:00 am.

The requested numbers, relating to emails sent and received by the DPMC CE Ben King in July 2024, excluding any periods when there was an Acting Chief Executive, are set out in the table below:

• Number of emails sent by the Chief Executive after 6:00 pm:	57
• Of those emails sent after 6:00 pm, number sent after 10:00 pm:	14
• Number of emails received by the Chief Executive after 6:00 pm:	117
• Of those emails received after 6:00 pm, number sent after 10:00 pm:	32
• Number of days during July 2024 the Chief Executive responded to a message after 6:00 pm:	11
• Number of emails made by Chief Executive on a Saturday or Sunday:	69

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

This response may 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,



Clare Ward
Executive Director
Strategy, Governance and Engagement