26-OIAD-02496

9(2)(a)

30 September 2026

Kia ora 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email received by the Ministry of Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport (the Ministry) on 19 August 2026 , requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

> *I asked the Minister Responsible for RM Reform about advice received re cancelling Mana Whakahono a Rohe agreements- that is shoddy as. The response redacted a lot of 'out of scope' content from the briefings released.*
>
> *Under the OIA, I request the following briefings in full:*
> - *26-BRF-01676*
> - *ENV-26-BRF-01823;*
>
> *Both the briefings provided by the Ministry and signed copy/copies received from Minister Bishop, and Parliamentary Undersecretary Court and/or their offices for each briefing.*
>
> *I ask that public interest outweighs any reasons to withhold content. As noted in parts of these briefings released under OIA26-CB172 (eg paragraph 5 of 26-BRF-01676:*
> *"due to the timeframes, we have been unable to engage with Treaty partners on many the proposals in this briefing.." and "there has also been no select committee scrutiny of the proposed changes"), this is happening at pace, without partnership or even consultation and actual listening, and many/all Māori see the proposals as undermining their rights.*

On 16 September 2026, we advised you that we would be extending the due date on your request by up to 10 working days because consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original timeframe.

I have identified five documents within the scope of your request and am releasing them to you in part as listed in the document schedule attached as Annex 1. The material which was previously withheld as out of scope in response to your request to Minister Bishop will largely be provided, however certain information is withheld from the documents under the following sections of the Act:

9(2)(a)	to protect the privacy of natural persons
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 of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
9(2)(h)	to maintain legal professional privilege

9(2)(j) to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations)

With regard to the information that has been withheld under section 9 of the Act, I am satisfied that the reasons for withholding the information at this time are not outweighed by public interest considerations that would make it desirable to make the information available.

Please note that while a decision has been made on your request, we require more time to prepare the documents for release. We will release the documents to you, with information withheld under the sections noted above, within five working days of this response.

If you would like to discuss this decision with us, please do not hesitate to contact us at OIA@mcert.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on its website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Ngā mihi



Josey Lang
Manager | Māori Rights and Interests
Ministry for Cities, Environment, Regions, and Transport

Annex 1: Document Schedule

#	Date	Reference	Title of Document	Decision on request	Grounds
1	23/06/2026	26-BRF-01676	Unsigned briefing: Approval of Amendment papers #2 (Treaty settlements and Māori interests) – Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h)
2	26/06/2026	26-BRF-01676	Signed briefing: Approval of Amendment papers #2 (Treaty settlements and Māori interests) – Planning Bill and Natural Environment Bill	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h)
3	03/07/2026	26-BRF-1823	Unsigned briefing: Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill – Further advice on Treaty settlement equivalency and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h) 9(2)(j)
4	12/07/2026	26-BRF-1823	Bishop signed briefing: Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill – Further advice on Treaty settlement equivalency and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h) 9(2)(j)
5	07/07/2026	26-BRF-1823	Court signed briefing: Natural Environment Bill and Planning Bill – Further advice on Treaty settlement equivalency and Mana Whakahono ā Rohe	Released in part	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i) 9(2)(h) 9(2)(j)