



17 October 2024

9(2)(a)



Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 22 August 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

On behalf of 9(2)(a), I am requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982. Please provide all relevant information from 1 August 2023 onwards. Specifically, I request the following details from your department:

- 1. Policy Changes: Any changes to policy on the use of te reo Māori in internal or external communications.*
- 2. Internal Communications: Any internal communications (emails, texts, messages, memos) about the use of te reo Māori.*
- 3. Advice on Te Reo Māori: Any advice received or prepared regarding the use of te reo Māori.*
- 4. Training and Guidance: Any staff training or guidance offered on the use of te reo Māori in communications.*
- 5. Budget and Resources: Allocation of budget or resources for promoting or integrating te reo Māori.*
- 6. Consultations: Any consultations with external Māori language experts or organisations regarding the department's use of te reo Māori.*
- 7. Service Cuts or Changes: Any cuts to services or changes to manuals, guidelines, or training related to te reo Māori communications.*
- 8. Funding Changes: Changes in funding from one financial year to another, reflecting a decrease in the prioritisation of te reo Māori.*

I have responded to each part of your request below.

- 1. Policy Changes: Any changes to policy on the use of te reo Māori in internal or external communications.*

Answer: The Ministry for the Environment (the Ministry) has made no changes to policy on the use of te reo Māori in either internal or external communications since 1 August 2023.

The Ministry continues to follow [Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission guidance](#) on the use of te reo Māori, and the guidelines in [Maihi Karauna, the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation](#).

2. *Internal Communications: Any internal communications (emails, texts, messages, memos) about the use of te reo Māori.*

Answer: A search of the Ministry's records for emails regarding 'te reo Māori' returned almost 3000 results. The time required to collate and assess these emails individually would be significant. As such, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

If there are particular documents you are interested in, I invite you to submit a new request under the Act detailing the types of documents you are seeking and a timeframe.

3. *Advice on Te Reo Māori: Any advice received or prepared regarding the use of te reo Māori.*

Answer: The Ministry has not received or prepared any advice regarding the use of te reo Māori. Therefore, this part is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

4. *Training and Guidance: Any staff training or guidance offered on the use of te reo Māori in communications.*

Answer: The Ministry's Te Ao Hurihuri Strategy is designed to build capacity, capability and confidence of staff members to engage effectively and respectfully with our Te Tiriti partners. The key objectives of Te Ao Hurihuri are to:

- normalise Te Reo Māori, tikanga Māori and mātauranga Māori across Te Manatū mō te Taiao
- raise levels of Māori capability across Te Manatū mō Te Taiao including a specific focus on roles that engage directly with Māori
- strengthen our approach and supporting frameworks for genuine partnership and engagement with Māori
- improve and adapt our policies, systems, and approaches so they are mana enhancing, and will deliver on our commitment to bringing Te Tiriti and Te Ao Māori to work every day.

5. *Budget and Resources: Allocation of budget or resources for promoting or integrating te reo Māori.*

Answer: The Ministry does not separately track expenditure or resources on promoting or integrating te reo Māori. Therefore this part is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

6. *Consultations: Any consultations with external Māori language experts or organisations regarding the department's use of te reo Māori*

Answer: The Ministry has not consulted with external Māori language experts or organisations regarding the department's use of te reo Māori. Therefore, this part is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

7. *Service Cuts or Changes: Any cuts to services or changes to manuals, guidelines, or training related to te reo Māori communications.*

Answer: There have been no service cuts or changes. Therefore, this part is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

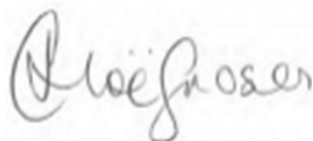
8. *Funding Changes: Changes in funding from one financial year to another, reflecting a decrease in the prioritisation of te reo Māori.*

Answer: The Ministry does not separately track expenditure or resources on the prioritisation of te reo Māori. Therefore this part is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist

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

Please note that due to the public interest in our work the Ministry for the Environment publishes responses to requests for official information on our [OIA responses page](#) shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerials@mfe.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Chloe Groser
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Ministry for the Environment | Manatū Mō Te Taiao