



16 August 2022

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Tēnā koe Will

**Your Official Information Act 1982 request OIA 22/23-0067**

Thank you for your email of 19 July 2022 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“Any reports, aide memoires or written memos to Ministers’ offices in this term of Government regarding the Charities Act, particularly information regarding the provision for advancement of religion, and/or its application to organisations like Sanitarium and other businesses owned by religious organisations.”*

We have interpreted your request as:

*“Any reports, aide memoires or written memos to Ministers’ offices in this term of government for information regarding the Charities Act provision for advancement of religion, and/or its application to organisations like Sanitarium and other businesses owned by religious organisations.”*

There are 24 documents falling within the scope of your request.

I am withholding 4 documents under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

I am refusing the release of 8 documents under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

I am releasing, attached as **Appendix A**, excerpts from six Community and Voluntary Sector Status Reports from 31 March to 10 June 2021.

I am releasing the remaining six documents, also attached as **Appendix A**, with some information withheld as it falls out of the scope of your request, and some information withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons; and
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information from the documents provided with this response are outweighed by other considerations which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

We intend to publish our response to your request on [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz). This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published in its entirety. Publishing responses increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the Act's purpose of enabling more effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Balakrishnan', written in a cursive style.

Anita Balakrishnan

**Tumuaki | Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability Group**