



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

19 September 2022

Ministerial Services
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[Website: www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Rav
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Dear Rav

Request for information (OIA 2223-0170)

I refer to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's letter of 25 August 2022 to you informing of the transfer of the third, fourth and fifth questions of your Official Information Act (the Act) request under section 14(b)(i) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department).

The parts of your request transferred to the Department are:

III) What is the total number of staff at the PMO currently and what are their designations and job descriptions ?(don't need names or private information)

IV) Who hires the staff at the PMO ? Is there a hiring committee or does the Hon PM does chooses her own staff ?

V) Who was the Chief of Staff at the PMO in Dec 2021 and who is the current Chief of Staff?

Response to your request

We can advise as follows:

- iii) Staff numbers in Ministerial offices fluctuate over the course of a calendar year due to changing needs and personnel requirements. The Department has recently released information on the number of staff in Ministerial offices, including the Prime Minister's office, on its [website](#). We are therefore refusing your request for staff numbers and their designations under section 18(d) of the Act:

18(d) that the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

We have however provided the job descriptions of roles in the Prime Minister's office in Appendix A.

- iv) Ministerial Services, which is a business group within the Department, employs staff in the offices of the Prime Minister and those working in Ministerial Offices. The same recruitment process for Ministerial office staff is used by the Department as for its other employees, although section (70)(1) of the Public Service Act 2020 is also taken into consideration:

70(1) the chief executive of a department or an interdepartmental venture that is responsible for the employment of ministerial staff across all Ministers' offices must have regard to the wishes of the relevant Minister when engaging ministerial staff.

- v) Mr Raj Nahna was the Chief of Staff to the Prime Minister in December 2021 and continues to be employed by the Department in this capacity.

We intend to publish this OIA response on www.dia.govt.nz (with your personal details having been removed). Publishing responses to OIA requests increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the purpose of the Act to enable effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies, and to promote the accountability of Ministers and officials.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information on how to do this is available at [Ombudsman New Zealand – Tari o te Kaitiaki Mana Tangata](http://www.ombudsman.govt.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden

General Manager – Ministerial Services

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs

Appendix A: Job descriptions of staff in the Prime Minister’s Office (as of 12 August 2022)