



3 July 2023

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Tēnā koe Mark

Your Official Information Act 1982, request reference OIA 2223-0915

I am responding to your email of 5 June 2023, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Recommendation 14 of the Belinda Clark review, Independent Review of FENZ's Workplace Culture and Complaint Handling Practices (Nov 2022) is titled: "Conduct complaints are investigated and determined by an independent body".

The review Report states: "DIA should provide advice to the Minister by 28 February 2023 on options for how best to implement this recommendation."

Please provide all information around DIA's response to this Recommendation, including all information post-28 Feb 2023.

I can confirm that Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs provided advice to the Minister of Internal Affairs regarding recommendation 14 of the Independent Review of FENZ's Workplace Culture and Complaint Handling Practices (November 2022). This advice is still under active consideration. Therefore, I am refusing your request under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to protect 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 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 a 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.

We intend to publish our response to your request on 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 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, reading "Jeremy Cauchi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct dot over the 'i'.

Jeremy Cauchi

Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability (acting)