



18 January 2024

T Murray  
Via FYI.org.nz  
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Tēnā koe T Murray

### Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA 23/24-0419

I am responding to your email of 9 December 2023 to Te Tari Taiwhenua | the Department of Internal Affairs requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*In reference to meetings with the new ministers: Racing, Ministerial Services, Internal Affairs and Local Government. I would like to request the following information:*

- *The date, time and location of your initial meeting with the new Minister for your department;*
- *A list of attendees at this meeting*
- *The cost of any flights and accommodation for staff who reside outside of wellington to attend this meeting*
- *Any documentation provided at the meeting*
- *All notes (including handwritten notes) taken at the meeting by department staff;*
- *A copy of any emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister.*

In response, please find attached **Appendix A** which provides the details of each initial meeting Te Tari Taiwhenua had with each of the new Ministers. We have also included records related to the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Hon Louise Upston, and the Minister for Digitising Government, Hon Judith Collins, which are part of Te Tari Taiwhenua's portfolios.

I can advise that, as at 9 December 2023, no meetings had taken place with the Minister Responsible for Ministerial Services, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, or the Minister for Racing, Rt Hon Winston Peters. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information does not exist.

Please find attached **Appendix B**, which provides notes taken at the meeting with the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector on 27 November 2023. In response to your remaining questions about documentation provided at the meeting, notes taken by departmental staff and emails or communications sent about the initial meetings, I can advise that no information exists. Therefore, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act.

## **Access to the Ombudsman**

If you are dissatisfied with our decision on your request for information, you have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman. The Office of the Ombudsman can be contacted by phone on 0800 802 602, via post at PO Box 10152 Wellington or via email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

## **Proactive release of our response**

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 effective participation in the making and administration of laws and policies and promoting the accountability of Ministers and officials.

Ngā mihi

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

Jeremy Cauchi

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

## Appendix A

Minister	Date, time and location of meeting	List of attendees	Cost of any flights and accommodation for staff	Documentation provided at the meeting	All notes by department staff	Copy of any emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister
Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Hon Louise Upston	27/11/2023 5:00pm to 5:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul James, Chief Executive</li> <li>Suzanne Doig, General Manager Policy Group</li> <li>Clare Allison, Director Gambling, Racing and Media Content</li> <li>Maria Robertson, Deputy Chief Executive</li> </ul>	None – all attendees are Wellington based	None	Attached as <b>Appendix B</b>	None
Minister for Digitising Government, Hon Judith Collins	29/11/2023 10:30am to 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul James, Chief Executive</li> <li>Ann-Marie Cavanagh, Deputy Chief Executive</li> </ul>	None – all attendees are Wellington based	None	None	None
Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Brooke van Velden	28/11/2023 2:30pm to 3:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul James, Chief Executive</li> </ul>	None – all attendees are Wellington based	None	None	None
Minister of Local Government, Hon Simeon Brown	27/11/2023 4:00pm to 4:30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paul James, Chief Executive</li> <li>Michael Lovett, Deputy Chief Executive</li> </ul>	None – all attendees are Wellington based	None	None	None