

24 December 2021

s9(2)(a)



Thank you for your four Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests, received on 15 November 2021, which I have set out and responded to below:

1. *All internal communications between Kāinga Ora officials/employees regarding the recent revelations contained in this article:*

<https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2021/11/kainga-ora-hid-the-fact-it-was-using-labour-candidate-arena-williams-in-taxpayer-funded-advertising.html>

Kāinga Ora is unable to fulfil this entire request (refer section 18(f) of the OIA), as this information cannot be provided without substantial research and collation. However, we have identified communications between key senior people that fall within scope of your request and we will provide this information to you. We are currently finalising these documents for release. Some information will be withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA on grounds of privacy, and section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to protect the provision of free and frank advice by officials.

2. *All internal communications between Kāinga Ora officials/employees regarding the recent announcement of a Public Service Commission investigation into concerning events at Kāinga Ora. This should include all correspondence between Kāinga Ora and the Public Service Commission/Commissioner, and between Kāinga Ora and the Minister of Housing's office in regards to this investigation.*

Kāinga Ora is unable to fulfil this entire request (refer section 18(f) of the OIA), as it raises the same issues of substantial research and collation as the first request. However, we have identified communications between key senior people that fall within scope of this request and we will provide this information to you. We are currently finalising these documents for release. Some information will be withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA on grounds of privacy, and section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to protect the provision of free and frank advice by officials.

3. *Please detail the advice provided to Kāinga Ora's communications staff prior to the 2020 election detailing their responsibilities regarding political neutrality. If specific training sessions were held please detail the dates they were held, how many attended, whether it was compulsory or not, and provide any materials that were provided as part of the training. If any advice was provided via group email, please provide this correspondence.*

All Kāinga Ora employees, including our communications team, received guidance prior to the 2020 election. The following items were published on the Kāinga Ora intranet:

- Your role in this year's General Election
- FAQs 2020 election – update
- Explanation of the Public Service standards
- Leaders Update – Election Guidance - excerpt

Our people were also advised of the information provided by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, e.g. *The Cabinet Office Circular on Government Decisions and Actions in the Pre-election Period* and of the Public Service Commission Standards of Integrity and Conduct, to which links were provided in the pre-election period. We will provide the above-named documents to you.

4. *The all staff email sent on 13 November 2021 regarding Kāinga Ora Officials' obligations under the Public Service Code of Conduct, specifically to act as neutral public servants. Any other all staff communications circulated in the week prior to the date above, regarding the same subject.*

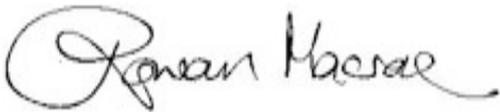
- Business Alert, 11 November 2021, titled *'Expressing a personal view'*.

I have been advised that the Business Alert titled *'Expressing a personal view'* is the information you are seeking in this request. The Alert was published on the Kāinga Ora intranet and a link was emailed to all our people on 11 November 2021. We will provide this information to you.

We will provide the information to you as soon as reasonably practicable. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of my decision on your OIA request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Kāinga Ora releases our responses to official information requests proactively where possible. Our response to your request may be published, with your personal information removed, at: <https://kaingaora.govt.nz/publications/official-information-requests/>

Yours sincerely

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

Rowan Macrae
General Manager People Governance and Capability