

OIA ref 122598

9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your information request of 29 May 2025. You asked for:

- All advice given to Minister Karen Chhour relating to the decision to disband Te Pūkotahitanga as announced by the Minister at a public meeting held at E Tipu E Rea Whānau Services, Panmure, Auckland, on 11 April 2025.

Your request has been treated in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 30 May 2025 we emailed you to say we would treat the scope of your request as advice related to the “decision to disband” Te Pūkotahitanga. To be clear, your request has been treated as advice related to the future of Te Pūkotahitanga, as the group has not been “disbanded”. When the group was established the members’ terms were to 30 June 2025 as per the 2022 Cabinet Paper here: <https://tepunaaonui.govt.nz/about-us/cabinet-papers>.

Please also note that the advice given was point-in-time and evolving. Such advice may include options that were not pursued and have been superseded by the passage of time. For example, no decisions were sought from Cabinet and the repurposing of funding was not pursued. The group was not dissolved or disbanded, and as noted above the appointments will lapse on 30 June 2025.

Six items have been identified in scope of your request. The items and my decisions with regard to release are set out in the attached table. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons
- 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials

- 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

Where a final signed version of a document is held we have provided that document. This includes the letters to the Co-Chairs (4a and 4b in the table attached).

I am satisfied there are no sufficient public interest considerations that render it desirable to make available the information withheld under section 9.

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of the response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone on 0800 802 602.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CS' followed by a stylized flourish.

Cam Sherley
DCE/Director System Stewardship

Documents and decisions – Official Information Act request ref 122598				
#	Date	Ref	Title	Decision
1	12 Sep 2024	114723	Te Pūkotahitanga purpose and scope	Release in part, some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i)
2	3 Dec 2024	117193	Te Pūkotahitanga – implementation of options 1 and 2	Release in part, some information withheld under 9(2)(f)(iv)
3	21 Mar 2025	119694	Te Pūkotahitanga future and funding	Release in part, some information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(f)(iv)
4	28 Mar 2025	Email	Updated Talking Points	Release in part, some information withheld under 9(2)(a)
5	3 April 2025	-	Letters to Chairs - Te Pūkotahitanga Tangata Whenua Ministerial Advisory Group	Release in full
6	7 May 2025	-	Excerpt from Annotated agenda FVSV Ministerial Group 7 May 2025	Release in full