

9 September 2022

s9(2)(a)

Mālō e lelei s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 19 August 2022, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the following information:

1. *A copy of your policy on employee drug use and drug testing.*
2. *How many random drug tests has your Department performed on employees or contractors since August 19, 2021?*
3. *How many non-random drug tests has your Department performed on employees or contractors since August 19, 2021?*
4. *Since August 19, 2021, how many employees or contractors associated with your Department failed a drug test?*
5. *How many employees or contractors have been fired or did not have their contract renewed following a drug test*

The Ministry performs the necessary due diligence when hiring new staff such as reference checks and requiring a criminal history check to be completed via the Ministry of Justice. Additionally, our Code of Conduct states that staff must never be under the influence of illegal drugs.

However, the Ministry does not have a policy on drug use or testing, nor does it perform drug tests on its employees. I must therefore refuse your request in full under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter will be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your company.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō 'aupito

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Leatigaga Jason Tualima', written in a cursive style.

Leatigaga Jason Tualima
Deputy Secretary,
Corporate Services