

21 February 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālo ni s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA041-2023/24)

On 24 January 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to correspondence relating to financial savings at the Ministry for Pacific Peoples. I have outlined your specific requests and my responses to each below.

1. *Copies of all internal correspondence including but not limited to emails, letters, emails, text messages, Whatsapp, Signal, Microsoft Teams sent or received by any Ministry for Pacific Peoples staff or representatives regarding a request of savings from the Minister of Finance for the 2024/25 financial year, since 20 November 2023.*
2. *Copies of all external correspondence including but not limited to emails, letters, emails, text messages, Whatsapp, Signal, Microsoft Teams sent or received between Ministry for Pacific Peoples staff or representatives and the Minister of Finance or her office requesting savings for the 2024/25 financial year, since 20 November 2023.*
3. *Copies of all correspondence including but not limited to emails, letters, emails, text messages, Whatsapp, Signal, Microsoft Teams sent or received by any Ministry for Pacific Peoples staff or representatives regarding a request of savings from the Minister of Finance for the 2024/25 financial year, since 20 November 2023.*

This information has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

4. *Copies of all advice, briefings, memos or any other documents provided by Ministry for Pacific Peoples staff or representatives regarding a request of savings from the Minister of Finance for the 2024/25 financial year, since 20 November 2023.*
5. *Any further reports the Minister or her Office have received from Ministry for Pacific Peoples staff or representatives regarding a request of savings from the Minister of Finance for the 2024/25 financial year, since 20 November 2023.*

I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information requested does not exist.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may 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 organisation.

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.

Fakafetai lahi lele

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ali Ajmal', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ali Ajmal
**Deputy Secretary,
Office of the Secretary**