



19 June 2025

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2024/25-0923

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, the following part of which was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 22 May 2025:

"any and all correspondence [...] regarding the makeup of the Science and Technology Advisory Council. This information should show who/which agency or body nominated a given member, and any supporting material, including nominees who did not make the final list. This should include, but not be limited to, decision-makers/appointment panel discussing the merits or otherwise of their appointment, experience, plus meeting minutes and/or agendas for these discussions."

I have interpreted the timeframe for your request as being from the date Cabinet agreed to establish the council, 18 November 2024, to the date the members' appointments were confirmed by Cabinet, 5 May 2025.

As I understand the Prime Minister's Office has also transferred your request to both the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment and the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology, Hon Dr Shane Reti, the present response covers only correspondence internal to DPMC regarding the nomination, selection, and/or appointment of the members of the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council (PMSITAC).

Information to be released

A search of DPMC's records for information relevant to your request has returned a single email dated 3 December 2024. This is from a former Policy Advisory Group (PAG) Advisor, Hayden Glass, to DPMC's Chief Executive, Ben King; Deputy Chief Executive – Policy, Janine Smith; and two other PAG Advisors. Most of the information contained in the email is not relevant to your request; therefore, the relevant information has been excerpted below, as permitted under section 16(1)(e) of the Act:

"The other item for progressing before Christmas was the PMs Council appointments. [s(9)(2)(a)] in PMO tells me that he has put some names to the PM but not yet got a response. The last APH is 17 December."

The name of the PMO staff member mentioned in the email has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, na,



Janine Smith
**Deputy Chief Executive
Policy**