



24 July 2025

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0022

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

### Official Information Act request relating to the hospice and palliative care sector

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 16 July 2025. You requested:

1. *“All internal correspondence and communications within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) relating to the hospice and palliative care sector from 1 January 2025 to the present.*
2. *All information and advice relating to the hospice and palliative care sector provided by the DPMC, from 1 January 2025 to the present, to:*

- *The Minister of Health*
- *Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora*
- *The Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora*
- *The Crown Observer appointed to Health New Zealand*

*This includes reports, briefing notes, emails, internal memos, or slide decks, particularly those relating to:*

- *Service coverage and models of hospice or palliative care*
- *Financial status or sustainability of the sector or specific Hospice entities*
- *Funding mechanisms (including baseline vs. charitable funding) Workforce and recruitment/retention in hospice services*
- *Responses to concerns raised by hospices or sector representatives (including Hospice New Zealand)*
- *Recommendations made to address sector issues, particularly those of a financial nature.”*

We have interpreted part one of your request as being for all communications between staff at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) about the hospice and palliative care sector, and part two as being for all advice authored by DPMC on the same. The timeframe for your request is 1 January – 16 July 2025.

### Information to be refused

DPMC has carried out a search of its electronic databases for information relevant to your request. No DPMC material has been identified as within scope of your request and, as such, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

For completeness, I note that a small number of documents contained brief references to ‘palliative care’ but that these were in a context unrelated to the hospice and palliative care sector, its funding, or its policy settings. For example:

- References appeared in the context of emergency management (e.g., earthquake response operational considerations).

- Mentions of 'palliative care' or 'hospice' occurred in New Year's Honours list citations, unrelated to any advice, communication, or correspondence as per your request.
- Other incidental references such as biographies in briefing notes, budgetary mentions of Te Whatu Ora, or materials from irrelevant dates (e.g., COVID-19 response) did not substantively address the issues raised in your request.

Some material relevant to your request may be held by the Ministry of Health and/or Health New Zealand. Ordinarily, under section 14 of the Act, we would transfer your request to these agencies, however, we understand you have already sent your request to them directly and therefore refer you to their respective responses.

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 DPMC 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, nā,



Clare Ward  
**Executive Director**  
**Strategy, Governance and Engagement**