



20 October 2025



Ref: OIA-2025/26-0241

Tēnā koe ,

Official Information Act request relating to delay in publication of OIA responses for August and September 2025

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, received on 8 October 2025. You requested:

"I am emailing today regarding the delay in releasing OIA requests in both August and September this year (2025). From previous publication dates, it seems DPMC typically has elected to publish responses to OIA requests on a monthly schedule (based on recent behaviour). So, my questions are:

- 1. When will OIA requests from both August and September 2025 be released to the public?*
- 2. Is there any communication regarding why DPMC is breaking its typical elected schedule? Please be broad. This could be between DPMC staff, Ministers, Members of Parliament, or foreign parties such as representatives of other states. If there is, please share this communication. If communication exists and can't be shared, please state why.*
- 3. DPMC has made a number of proactive releases during the period mentioned above. Is there any communication regarding a relation between this and the lack of published OIA responses. To be clear, I do not mean this in a conspiratorial way, I am asking if DPMC is attempting to switch to a model that focuses more around proactive releases. Does this delay (which includes a large number of proactive releases) signify a shift in procedure?*
- 4. What are the DPMC procedures regarding OIA publishing timeframes?*
- 5. If DPMC would not characterise the lack of release for August 2025 in particular as a delay in release (based on the lack of release as per 7/10/25), is there a specific reason DPMC is electing to break its typical release schedule (please take into consideration that I understand DPMC has the legal power to stick to its own time frame, and that the monthly release is not binding)? If there is a reason for the delayed responses (while I understand the delay is legal), please share any communication or meeting notes that relate to this.*
- 6. Am I incorrect in assuming that DPMC typically elects to publish OIA requests monthly, despite its ability to release OIA responses on its own schedule?*

Even if OIA requests from the mentioned period are released between now and your response to the email, I would still appreciate that my questions are answered (other than question 1). Furthermore, I understand it is only the beginning of October, so the September responses could still be published in a timely manner. If they are scheduled to be released, please focus your response around the lack of publication for August 2025 responses (which seemingly would typically be published in September 2025)."

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is committed to transparency and accountability and aims to follow the Ombudsman’s guidance to release responses to requests under the Act on our website “as soon as reasonably practicable.” Our approach to proactively releasing responses also reflects the Public Service Commission’s guidance: <https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoryFile/Official-Information-Proactive-Release-of-Official-Information..pdf>.

Publication times, such as those for the August and September batches of responses under the Act, can nevertheless vary due to operational priorities, resourcing, and the volume of information to process. DPMC’s Official Information and Proactive Release Policy stipulates that “at least once a quarter we will publish responses to OIA requests that are appropriate for wider publication.” This document is publicly available on our website: <https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2017-10/dPMC-official-information-and-proactive-release-policy-2017.pdf>.

DPMC has continued to publish Cabinet papers over August and September 2025, consistent with the policy set out in the [CabGuide](#), which stipulates that:

Cabinet papers and minutes must be proactively released within 30 business days of final decisions being taken by Cabinet, unless there is good reason not to publish all or part of the material, or to delay the release. This policy applies to all papers lodged from 1 January 2019, excluding APH papers.

Information to be refused

DPMC has conducted a search of its electronic databases for communications relevant to Questions 2, 3, and 5 of your request. No such communications have been identified as within scope of these parts of your request. For your awareness, I note that the proactive release of responses to requests under the Act is a departmental matter, so any communications would be between DPMC staff. These parts of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist.

This response will be published on DPMC’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, nā



Alan Cassidy
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Chief People Officer