



CABINET OFFICE

16 March 2026



Ref: OIA OIA-2025/26-0512

Tēnā koe [redacted]

**Official Information Act request: [redacted] Correspondence between Hon Chris Bishop and Cabinet Office from 18 to 19 November 2025 relating to the Prime Minister's response to WPQ 219**

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request, received on 17 February 2026. You requested:

*Correspondence between Hon Chris Bishop and the Cabinet Office relating to the Prime Minister's response to WPQ 219 (2026).*

This request was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet from the Office of the Right Honourable Chris Luxon, as his office does not hold this correspondence. I have interpreted your request to include correspondence (which we interpret to comprise letters and emails) from 18 and 19 November 2025 in relation to oral questions on those days regarding the Melling interchange, as referred to in the Prime Minister's full response to this WPQ.

The Cabinet Office holds correspondence that falls within the scope of your request. I have decided to withhold this information in full, except to the extent summarised in the table below or as is publicly available, under the following sections of the Act, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals,
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials,
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not. Successive Ombudsmen have taken the view that Cabinet Office advice to Ministers on conflicts of interest is inherently confidential. It is in

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the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess this information and provide advice to Minister on how to manage them.

The following table describes the correspondence that falls within the scope of this request.

Date	Correspondence
18/11/2025 5:44pm	Cabinet Office email to Hon Bishop's office with the transcripts from oral questions 4 and 7 on 18 November (relating to conflicts of interest), and related advice. The Cabinet Office also noted there was an OIA relating conflicts of interest advice and the Melling Interchange at the time. <i>The transcripts from these oral questions are publicly available.</i>
19/11/2025 10:56am & 11:38am	Email chain from Hon Bishop's office asking the Cabinet Office for advice regarding oral question 12 on that day. The Cabinet Office then provided advice and a draft response. <i>Both the question and final answer to this question are publicly available.</i>

### Information publicly available

The full response to WPQ 219 (2026), mentioned in your request, is publicly available on the Parliament website – here: [219 \(2026\). Tangi Utikere to the Prime Minister](#)

Also available on the Parliament website are the official transcripts of oral questions to Ministers, including the questions referred to in the above correspondence from 18 and 19 November 2025 – here: [Read Hansard Reports - New Zealand Parliament](#)

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, nā



Rachel Hayward  
**Secretary of the Cabinet**