



30 March 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0617

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to waiata groups

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 25 March 2026. You requested:

“For clarification only, could you please confirm whether, the Department still meets for Waiata group? If so, could you advise:

- how many hours per week these groups typically meet, and*
- whether staff are permitted to participate in these activities during their paid working hours.*
- Or other training is provided externally instead (we understand if so an OIA would be needed for more information).”*

DPMC can confirm that its waiata group is currently meeting. DPMC’s waiata group meets for 30 minutes once a week. Government House, which is a business unit within DPMC, also has a waiata group that meets for 30 minutes once a week. DPMC staff are permitted to participate in these waiata groups during their paid working hours.

No other training relating to waiata groups is provided externally. Accordingly, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

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

Alan Cassidy
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Chief People Officer