



5 May 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0656

Official Information Act request: Advice on the disestablishment of Te Aka Whai Ora

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 14 April 2026. You requested:

"I am writing to request information under the Official Information Act 1982 relating to Te Aka Whai Ora (the Māori Health Authority), with a focus on Cabinet material and cross-agency advice.

Specifically, I request:

1. *All Cabinet papers, Cabinet committee papers, and associated minutes relating to:*
 - a. *The establishment, role, and strategic direction of Te Aka Whai Ora*
 - b. *Any proposed changes to its functions, structure, or funding*
 - c. *The decision to disestablish Te Aka Whai Ora*
2. *All briefings, reports, and advice prepared by or for the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet relating to:*
 - a. *The strategic direction and future of Te Aka Whai Ora*
 - b. *Cross-agency coordination and policy development*
 - c. *The implications of disestablishment, including impacts on planned work and Māori health outcomes*
3. *Any material provided to the Prime Minister or Cabinet Ministers relating to Te Aka Whai Ora, including summaries, talking points, or key messages.*
4. *Any documents relating to planned but unimplemented strategies, initiatives, or work programmes associated with Te Aka Whai Ora.*
5. *Any draft or unpublished material, including discussion documents, working papers, or internal analysis relating to the above.*
6. *Any document registers, indices, or lists that identify relevant documents held by DPMC.*

To assist with managing scope, I am happy to receive information in tranches or grouped by document type.

I would prefer to receive this information in electronic form.

If any part of this request is likely to be refused under section 18(f), I request that you work with me to refine it in accordance with your obligations under the Act."

On 17 April, you refined your request to be for:

1. *"All Cabinet papers and Cabinet minutes relating to the decision to disestablish Te Aka Whai Ora.*
2. *All briefings and advice provided to the Prime Minister or relevant Ministers by DPMC relating to the rationale for disestablishment, including any analysis of impacts on Māori health outcomes."*

You also agreed to limit your request to material produced between 27 November 2023 and 31 December 2024.

On 20 April, we advised you of our decision to transfer Part 1 of your refined request to the Minister of Health, Hon Simeon Brown under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act.

The present response covers Part 2 of your request.

Part 2

We have interpreted this part of your request as seeking formal advice provided by DPMC to the Prime Minister during the period 27 November 2023 – 31 December 2024.

Identified as relevant to this part of your request are some briefings provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet, and are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(f)(ii), to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

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 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



Lisa Danell
Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Delivery Unit