



18 May 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0667

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request: Follow up to request for records relating to Cabinet and Cabinet committee processes concerning veterans policy

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 19 April 2026. You requested:

“Thank you for your email of 9 April 2026 and the attached transfer letter regarding OIA-2025/26-0632. I understand the basis on which DPMC has transferred the Cabinet-material aspect of my request to the Minister for Veterans particularly in light of the Cabinet Office role and the approach described in the Cabinet Manual.

However, I would be grateful for clarification on one point. My request was not limited to release of Cabinet papers or Cabinet minutes. It also sought confirmation of whether DPMC itself held related records created, received or maintained by DPMC in connection with Cabinet and Cabinet committee processes, including for example:

- Cabinet Office briefings
- departmental comments or coordination notes
- records of inter-agency consultation coordinated through DPMC
- records relating to preparation, review, or coordination of Cabinet submissions
- records identifying which agencies were involved in preparing Cabinet material and, where relevant, search methodology and repository information

To the extent that any such records are held by DPMC in its own right, rather than only as Cabinet material for release assessment by the relevant portfolio Minister, could you please confirm whether those parts of the request remain with DPMC for decision, or whether DPMC intended to transfer the request in full. If the request has been transferred in full, I would appreciate brief confirmation that this includes the DPMC-held process, coordination, and search-methodology aspects of the request, and the basis on which DPMC considers those parts to be more closely connected to the Minister for Veterans.

I am simply seeking to ensure that the distinction is clear between:

- release decisions on Cabinet material; and
- any separate DPMC-held process or coordination records falling within the terms of the request.”

We interpreted your original request (OIA-2025/26-0632 refers) as seeking Cabinet and Cabinet Committee papers and minutes related to the veterans' affairs portfolio for the current administration (27 November 2023 to 9 April 2026). On this basis, we considered the request to be more closely connected with the functions of the Minister for Veterans, Hon Chris Penk. Accordingly, your request was transferred in full to the Minister for Veterans under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. This was intended to be our full and final response to your original request. However, we apologise if that interpretation did not fully address the other aspects of your request.

As you are aware, the Cabinet Office holds all Cabinet and Cabinet Committee papers and minutes; however, Ministers and agencies are responsible for their own Cabinet material, and the Cabinet Office is not the appropriate agency to make decisions on the release of other agencies' or ministers' material under the Act (see para 8.5 of the Cabinet Manual): www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/cabinet-office/supporting-work-cabinet/cabinet-manual.

In responding to your request, the Cabinet Office completed a search for any of its own records, other than Cabinet or Cabinet Committee material, related to the terms 'veterans recognition proposals', 'VAB recommendations', 'covenant / kawenata proposals', 'Approved Information Sharing Agreements (AISA)', and 'Paterson Report'.

Searches for 'VAB recommendations', 'covenant / kawenata proposals', and 'Approved Information Sharing Agreements (AISA)' returned no matches in scope of your request. Searches for 'Paterson Report' confirmed the Cabinet Office holds some information related to this matter. The documents matching this search were created for administrative and reporting purposes and provide a record of Cabinet and Cabinet Committee consideration of the item *Review of Veterans' Support Act 2014: Response to the Paterson Report*. They do not contain any substantive information about this item.

In carrying out its functions the Cabinet Office holds correspondence with ministers' offices related to 'veterans policy' and the 'Veterans' Advisory Board'. These are administrative emails regarding the organisation of Cabinet and Cabinet Committees (for example organising meeting schedules or confirming the items on an agenda). They do not contain any substantive information about the items being considered.

Further information regarding Cabinet processes and the role of Cabinet Office is available on DPMC's website: www.dPMC.govt.nz/units/cabinet-office/roles-and-responsibilities. With respect to the focus of your follow-up request, we believe the section titled 'Secretariat services' may be most relevant.

You asked whether DPMC also holds records relating to the "preparation, review, or coordination of Cabinet submission". DPMC's Policy Advisory Group provides advice to the Prime Minister on matters across all portfolios, including matters being considered by Cabinet and Cabinet Committee. 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.

DPMC has undertaken keyword searches based your original request for 'VAB recommendation', 'covenant / kawenata proposals,' and 'Approved Information Sharing Agreements (AISA)'. No relevant documents were identified in scope. Accordingly, I can confirm that DPMC does not hold any other relevant material.

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



Jenna Hansen
Manager, Accountability and Ministerial Services

Proactively Released