



7 July 2026

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0757

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

## Official Information Act request for communications relating to the use of Artificial Intelligence in the public sector

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 May 2026. You requested:

*"I'd like to request the following, for the period of Jan 1, 2026 – present:*

*All communications (including but not limited to meeting notes or minutes, records of telephone calls and any electronic communications via email, SMS, messaging apps e.g. WhatsApp) between ministers and staff at the ministries for Public Service & Digitising Government, DPMC, Treasury and MBIE, and representatives from Microsoft relating to the use of AI in the public sector."*

On 18 June 2026, the time frame for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 19 working days because consultations were needed before a decision could be made on the request. Following this extension, I am now in a position to respond.

DPMC has interpreted your request to be for all communications between DPMC staff and Microsoft representatives relating to the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the public sector from 1 January to 25 May 2026 (the date your request was received by DPMC).

The part of your request for all communications between staff at the ministries for Public Service & Digitising Government, The Treasury, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), and Microsoft representatives relating to the use of AI in the public sector is more closely connected with the functions of the Public Service Commission (PSC), The Treasury and MBIE. Typically, DPMC would transfer this part of your request to PSC, The Treasury, and MBIE under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. However, as your request was also sent to those agencies directly we instead refer you to their responses.

The part of your request for all communications between ministers and Microsoft representatives relating to the use of AI in the public sector is more closely connected with the functions of the Minister for the Public Service and Digitising Government, Hon Paul Goldsmith. Typically, DPMC would transfer this part of your request to the Minister for the Public Service and Digitising Government under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act. However, as your request was also sent to Hon Paul Goldsmith we instead refer you to his response.

DPMC had initially identified communications between DPMC staff and Microsoft representatives relating to DPMC's adoption of AI. However, those communications are not considered in scope of your request as you have asked for communications between DPMC staff and Microsoft representatives relating to the use of AI in the public sector. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(g) of the OIA because the requested information is not held.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cassidy', is positioned above the printed name.

Alan Cassidy  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate and Chief People Officer**