DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

29 June 2026

[redacted]

Ref: OIA-2025/26-0790

Tēnā koe [redacted],

Official Information Act request relating to the use of private accounts for official business

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 3 June 2026. You requested:

> *"This request concerns the use of private, personal, or non-governmental accounts and devices by the Prime Minister and Prime Minister's Office staff to conduct official business. Recent public admissions including that a corporate lobbying document was received by the Chief Policy Adviser on a private email account raise legitimate public interest questions about the extent to which official business is being conducted outside official government systems.*
>
> *The Ombudsman has confirmed that official information received or created in an official capacity remains subject to the OIA regardless of the account or device on which it is held.*
> *I request the following:*
>
> 1. *Any records, logs, disclosures, or internal reports identifying instances where official business was conducted via private or personal accounts or devices by the Prime Minister or Prime Minister's Office staff, including any self-disclosures made by staff following the records review announced in May 2026.*
>   *Timeframe: 1 January 2023 to the date of this request.*
>
> *Key Personnel*
> *Communications sent or received by:*
>
> - *The Prime Minister (Hon Christopher Luxon)*
> - *The Prime Minister's Chief of Staff*
> - *Matt Burgess, Chief Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister*
> - *Senior political advisers in the Prime Minister's Office*
> - *The Chief Executive of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet*
>
> *Account types: This request expressly includes communications on private, personal, or non-governmental accounts and devices, including private email, personal mobile numbers, and encrypted messaging applications. Please ensure Matt Burgess and all relevant PMO staff are explicitly asked to check their personal accounts and devices. It does not include information or correspondence within official channels except where information has been sent to or from private, personal, or non-governmental accounts and devices, including private email, personal mobile numbers, and encrypted messaging applications of the personnel named above.*

Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings, Wellington, New Zealand 6011
☎ 64 4 817 9698 www.dpmc.govt.nz

If any part of this request is refused or information withheld, please specify the exact section of the Act relied upon and the public interest grounds considered.

If this request extends to information held by any other agency, please transfer it accordingly under section 14 of the Official Information Act 1982."

On 15 June 2026, your request was transferred in relation to any relevant communications with the former Chief Policy Advisor in the Prime Minister's office to the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). The remainder of your request, other than the part about any information about communications with the DPMC Chief Executive, was transferred to the Prime Minister.

This response covers the part remaining with DPMC, that is for any records of official business conducted via private or personal accounts or devices by the DPMC Chief Executive with the Prime Minister or Prime Minister's office staff.

You are seeking information from 1 January 2023. As explained in our letter of 15 June 2026, the Prime Minister and his office only hold official information from the time he came to office on 27 November 2023. The current DPMC Chief Executive, Ben King, was appointed in March 2024. The timeframe of your request relating to communications with the DPMC Chief Executive is taken from when he was appointed to that position in March 2024.

We have checked our records and checked with the DPMC Chief Executive himself. There are no records identifying any instances where official business was conducted via private or personal accounts or devices by the DPMC Chief Executive to communicate with the Prime Minister or staff in the Prime Minister's Office. Accordingly, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that no records 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