CABINET OFFICE

12 August 2026

[redacted]

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0051

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act request: Cabinet Manual paragraphs that describe the status of NZ Police and the NZ Defence Force in relation to the public service principles

On 20 July 2026 part of your Official Information Act (the Act) request was transferred to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) from the Public Service Commission (the Commission). You requested:

> *"... any applicable Cabinet Manual paragraphs that describe the status of NZ Police and NZDF in relation to the public service principles?"*

Response to your request

Given the context of your original request to the Commission, I have interpreted your request to be for any applicable Cabinet Manual paragraphs that describe the status of NZ Police and NZDF in relation to the public service principles set out in section 12 of the Public Service Act 2020.

I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, on the basis that the Cabinet Manual does not describe the status of specific agencies, including the New Zealand Police or the New Zealand Defence Force, in relation to the principles in section 12 of the Public Service Act 2020.

The Cabinet Manual provides guidance on the laws, rules, and constitutional conventions affecting the conduct and operation of government. It is not an Act of Parliament and does not itself create statutory obligations. It records and explains established conventions and practices that guide Ministers, public servants, and public sector organisations in the conduct of executive government.

Whilst the Cabinet Manual does not describe the status of agencies in relation to the principles in the Public Service Act 2020, it does record relevant established conventions that apply to the public sector more generally. These can be found in Chapter 3 Ministers of the Crown and the Public Sector.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

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This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's 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



Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet