CABINET OFFICE

28 August 2026

[redacted]

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0093

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act request: Index of reference numbers for Cabinet material

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 31 July 2026. You requested:

> *I would like to request an index of reference numbers of Cabinet Minutes and Papers. (e.g. CAB-24-MIN-0100, CAB-24-SUB-0100)*
>
> *This does not mean listing out every single number, simply the lower and upper bound for each year, and a note of if any numbers have been skipped and therefore no cabinet paper/minute exists for (reason doesn't matter).*
>
> *This should include core cabinet minutes/papers and any cabinet committee (e.g. ECO-24-MIN-0001).*
>
> *If this is not easily exportable information and will result in significant time and effort that may decline this request, I would then limit this request to 2020-2025 inclusive, however my preference is all available year ranges pertaining to this request.*

Response to your request

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) does not hold a consolidated index in the precise format requested for all the information requested, showing the upper and lower bounds for each series and identifying every skipped number.

Producing the requested index of all cabinet material references would require substantial collation, as the information is spread across electronic and hardcopy records, and research to determine whether any numbers in the hardcopy records have been skipped.

Accordingly, the request for a consolidated summary of reference ranges and verified gaps is refused under section 18(f) of the Act to the extent it relates to all Cabinet

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minutes and papers for all time, as providing it would require substantial collation or research.

In reaching this decision, I considered sections 18A and 18B of the Act, including whether charging, extending the time limit, or further consultation would enable the request to be granted. I concluded that these measures would not remove the reason for refusal.

Rather than declining your request in full or narrowing it to the period 2020-2025 as you suggested, we have used an AI tool to assist in creating an index of reference numbers for the information we hold within scope that is available in electronic format. This information is held in CabNet, the secure online platform used to support Cabinet and Cabinet Committee processes, which has been in operation since August 2015. We are therefore providing the attached index of reference numbers, in the format you requested, for all Cabinet and Cabinet Committee submissions and Minutes held in CabNet between August 2015 and 31 July 2026 (the date on which your request was received).

While we have undertaken a human review of the index by sampling entries for accuracy, we have not reviewed every entry individually.

The attached index includes a count of submission or minute numbers that were not used within the lower and upper bounds of each annual range. Please note that this count does not include unused reference numbers that fall below the starting point of the relevant range. For example, for the range CAB-25-SUB-0005 to CAB-25-SUB-0477, the reported skip count is 36. This figure does not include submission numbers 1 to 4, which sit below the lower bound of the range.

The reference number ranges provided for Cabinet Minutes do not identify supplementary minutes issued under a primary minute reference. For example, a Budget submission may result in several minutes relating to individual Votes, which are recorded as supplementary minutes (for example, CAB-24-MIN-0100.1, CAB-24-MIN-0100.2, and so on). As a result, the total number of Cabinet Minutes issued in a given year may exceed the number suggested by the reference number range alone.

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 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