CABINET OFFICE

17 August 2026

[redacted]

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0096

Tēnā koe [redacted]

Official Information Act request: Conflicts of interest, gifts, and hospitality

Thank you for your Official Information Act (the Act) request received on 1 August 2026. You requested:

> *Copies of all declarations of conflicts of interest, gifts, and hospitality received by Cabinet Ministers for the period 1 January 2025 to 31 July 2026 that have not already been proactively released.*
> *Reply by email.*

The Cabinet Ministers in the period of 1 January 2025 to 31 July 2026 were Rt Hon Luxon, Rt Hon Peters, Hon Seymour, Hon Bishop, Hon Brown, Hon Collins KC, Hon Costello, Hon Doocey, Hon Goldsmith, Hon Jones, Hon McKee, Hon McClay, Hon Mitchell, Hon Penk, Hon Potaka, Hon Dr Reti, Hon Simmonds, Hon Stanford, Hon Upston, Hon Watts, Hon Willis and Hon van Velden.

The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supports Ministers in identifying and managing conflicts of interest as they may arise. It therefore holds information relevant to your request.

Declarations of conflicts of interest

Information publicly available

I have interpreted this part of your request to be for copies of the above Ministers' conflicts of interest as declared to/recorded by the Cabinet Office in their formal registers of interest within the timeframe noted in your request, except where they are already publicly available.

From the framing of your request, I have assumed that you have seen the Cabinet Office's proactive releases of information regarding transfers of responsibility between Ministers and formal arrangements not to receive papers. As you'll know, these proactive releases contain some information relating to Ministers' conflicts of interest and agreed management arrangements. The next proactive release will be published by the end of September and cover arrangements established from 1 January to 30 June 2026.

The Cabinet Office has previously responded to other official information requests related to Ministerial conflicts. These responses are available on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website – here. Accordingly, I have refused part of your

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request under section 18(d) of the Act, as some of this information is or will soon be publicly available.

Additional information

The Cabinet Office also holds information relating to two transfers of responsibility that were put in place in July 2026 (outside the information to be included in the next proactive release). I have decided to release these to you in the form of summary under section 16(e) of the Act – see the table below.

Minister	Matter at issue	Nature of conflict	Arrangement
Hon McClay	Potential conflict between responsibilities relating to the management of the Crown's forestry assets and wider policy responsibilities as Minister of Forestry	Portfolio	Responsibilities for matters relating to responses to any enforcement action or proposed enforcement action by the Gisborne District Council in relation to Crown forestry assets transferred to Hon Penk on 1 July 2026. Actions (1) and (2) put in place.[1]
Hon Jones	Potential perceived conflict between Ministerial responsibilities as Minister for Oceans and Fisheries and a personal interest (iwi and family connection to Te Aupōuri and Te Aupōuri Fisheries Management Limited).	Personal	Responsibilities as Minister for Oceans and Fisheries transferred to Hon Potaka on 28 July for any matters relating an application for a Special Permit under section 97 of the Fisheries Act 1996 from Te Aupōuri Fisheries Management Limited. Actions (1), (2), (3) and (4) put in place.[2]

Information being withheld

The Cabinet Office holds additional information in scope of your request. I have decided to withhold this in full, except as is publicly available or shared above, under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals.
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to prevent damage to the public interest.
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

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1 and **2** The following actions commonly occur because of a transfer:

(1) officials will report directly to the Acting Minister (recipient of the transfer) on matters connected to the conflicted project inclusion decision;

(2) any information relating to the conflicted project inclusion decision will be referred to the Acting Minister;

(3) the Minister with the conflict of interest will not take part in the conflicted project inclusion decision and will not receive relevant parts of Cabinet papers or official papers or reports relating to that conflicted project inclusion decision; and

(4) when a conflicted project inclusion decision is discussed at Cabinet committee or Cabinet meetings, the relevant Minister will declare their interest and withdraw from that part of the relevant meeting.

In making my decision, in accordance with section 9(1) of the Act I have considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the need to withhold the information, and I have concluded that it does not.

Details regarding conflicts of interest declared to the Cabinet Office are not generally disclosed. This is to ensure the confidentiality of Cabinet proceedings, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs and, in some cases, to protect personal privacy.

This has been the approach taken by successive administrations as it is in the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess information about Ministers' conflicts and provide related advice on a confidential basis.

Declarations of gifts and hospitality

From your request, I have also assumed that you have access to the publicly available Registers of pecuniary and other specified interests. As included in the Cabinet Manual, the Standing Orders require members of Parliament to disclose to the Registrar of Pecuniary and Other Specified Interests of Members of Parliament (the Registrar) any gift received with an estimated market value of more than a prescribed amount i.e., $500. These formal declarations, or "returns", include gifts of hospitality and donations in cash or kind.

The Cabinet Office is not involved in this formal declaration process, which is between Ministers, as members of Parliament (MPs), and the Registrar. Further information on the process and types of returns can be found on the Parliament website – here. The most recent Register covers the period from 1 February 2025 to 31 January 2026. Information requested relating to January 2025 can be found in the Register from the previous year (both available in the link above).

The Cabinet Office has copies of these declarations because at Ministers' regular conflicts of interest reviews (every six months), officials take a copy of the latest Register at the time. Accordingly, I am refusing your request in part under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that this information is publicly available.

No formal declarations have been made for the period covering 1 February until 31 July 2026. I am therefore refusing your request in part under section 18(e) of the Act on the basis that this information does not exist.

Ministers are subject to the Act only in their capacity as Ministers (not in their personal capacity or in their capacity as MPs). This would include correspondence between the Registrar and MPs. Accordingly, I decided not to transfer this part of your request to the relevant MPs or Registrar for response.

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