



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

30 August 2022

Te Tari Taiwhenua
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Tēnā koe L Brown,

Official Information Act (1982) request 2223-0100

Thank you for your request for information dated 5 August 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department). You requested the following:

I was interested to see the Chief Archivist, Stephen Clarke's, recent LinkedIn post about Māori Data Sovereignty. I was interested because I didn't think the government had come to any position on Māori Data Sovereignty, despite the fact that Māori data is clearly subject to the rights laid out in Te Tiriti and the UN Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which Aotearoa has signed. Also, because Archives NZ holds significant amounts of mātauranga concerning Māori, and so the Chief Archivist's position on how this should be managed is important.

My interest quickly turned to disappointment when I saw the Chief Archivist of New Zealand say that Māori do not know what they want with regard to their data.

I note that the post was edited multiple times and then removed, which doesn't seem particularly transparent for a public official. My question is, does the DIA, and associated Chief Executives, Ministers etc who are Mr Clarke's superiors, support this position on Māori Data Sovereignty from the Chief Archivist of New Zealand, that Māori do not know what they want? What is the DIA's position on this matter?

I would like to see any and all correspondence generated by department officials in relation to Mr Clarke's post. I would also like to know whether any disciplinary action was taken with regard to Mr Clarke in this instance?

Response to your request

Te Tari Taiwhenua, the Department of Internal Affairs, is committed to protecting Māori rights and interests, including the inherent right for Māori to exercise control over Māori data and Māori data ecosystems.

This is part of a much broader commitment to work in partnership with iwi and Māori to understand and help realise aspirations as to how taonga and Mātauranga Māori is controlled, cared for and accessed.

In the documentary and recorded heritage sector, Archives New Zealand, the National Library and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision are working together to improve how they deliver modern physical and digital services that embed a te Ao Māori view and help to ensure Māori can carry out their role as kaitiaki of taonga Māori.

This has involved the development of Mātauranga Māori standards that are being embedded into the work of the three institutions.

The Chief Archivist's stated intent at the time of the post was to stimulate discussion on a topic of interest to New Zealanders, on which he was forming his own views. No disciplinary action was taken in response to this post. The Chief Archivist made the choice himself to remove the post following queries raised directly with him. This was also a useful opportunity to recirculate the Public Service Guidelines on the use of social media.

Please note that some information is being withheld under Section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons and including that which is deemed to be out scope of the request.

If you have any concerns with the information in this response, you have a right to request an investigation and review by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. Information on how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi,



Hoani Lambert

Hautū – Deputy Chief Executive

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs

Appendix A: Schedule of documents released:

Page number:	Document:
1.	Email from Programme Director, Digital to GM Te Ara Tahī
2.	Email from Programme Director, Digital to Acting DCE
3.	Group text message – Further initials of recipients included as originally cropped
4.	Text message from Director Strategy to Communications Business partner
5,6,7,8	Email thread of LinkedIn post correspondence
9.	Screen shot of LinkedIn post and comments
10.	Email from GM Te Ara Tahī to DCE, Te Haumi
11, 12, 13, 14	Text message screenshots from Chief Archivist to Acting DCE and Director Ratonga Māori
15.	Extract from Acting DCE to DCE on his return from overseas
16.	MS Teams screenshot from Acting DCE to Chief Archivist – Initials included to show recipient/ receiver