



**Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs**

17 March 2023

Ministerial Services
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Website: www.dia.govt.nz

James

fyi-request-21372-c4397927@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

Request for information (OIA 2223-0597)

Thank you for your request for information dated 9 December 2022 made under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the office of Hon Willie Jackson. On 21 February 2023, you were advised by Hon Jackson's office that your request had been transferred to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) to respond.

You requested the following information:

I am requesting information any connection you or your office(s) has to Michael Tukaki and Mr Tukaki's and any involvement in the following meetings.

- 1. This includes role or roles, start dates in the position or positions that Michael has held, and of course any current role he holds.*
- 2. In regards to the listed meetings below, was Mr Tukaki present - in the room, visible or had any interaction whatsoever, no matter how brief with the attendee's of the following meetings..if the answer is yes to any of the above, were the attendees of the video conferences made aware of Mr Tukaki's presence?*

*MEET | Broadcasting & Media Officials
4/07/2022 09:30 - 10:15
4/07/2022
11:00 - 13:00*

*5/07/2022 11:45 - 12:15
MEET | RNZ Chair and CEO*

*5/07/2022
11:00 - 11:30 News Publishers
Association*

Response to your request

1. *This includes role or roles, start dates in the position or positions that Michael has held, and of course any current role he holds.*

The Department's Ministerial Services Group is responsible for recruiting, employing and onboarding all Ministerial office staff, in addition to discharging employer obligations for their performance management, health, safety and wellbeing, and professional development.

Mr Michael Tukaki is employed by the Department as a Senior Ministerial Advisor supporting Hon Willie Jackson. Prior to his current role, Mr Tukaki was Private Secretary (Advisory/Media), and Ministerial Advisor (Level 2).

As the employer of staff working in Ministers' offices, the Department has an obligation to protect the privacy of these individuals and to keep their employment information safe and secure. We are therefore refusing the part of your request relating to start dates for Mr Tukaki's roles under section 9(2)(a) of the Act that withholding information is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased persons.

2. *In regards to the listed meetings below, was Mr Tukaki present - in the room, visible or had any interaction whatsoever, no matter how brief with the attendee's of the following meetings..if the answer is yes to any of the above, were the attendees of the video conferences made aware of Mr Tukaki's presence?*

- *MEET | Broadcasting & Media Officials*

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Summary information on internal and external meetings held by Ministers in relation to ministerial business are publicly available on the [Parliament website](#). Matters that may not be included in the proactive release include information that might breach the privacy of a person, relating to decisions still under active consideration by the Minister, or matters of national security. The Department is refusing part 2 of your request under the following sections of the Act:

9(2) withholding of the information is necessary to —

- (a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; and
- (g) maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through —
 - (i) the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of any organisation or officers and employees or any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

You can find the July 2022 diary summary proactively released by Hon Willie Jackson [here](#).

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.

Yours sincerely



Briget Ridden

General Manager – Ministerial Services

Te Haumi – Enterprise Partnerships

Te Tari Taiwhenua – The Department of Internal Affairs