

16 November 2023

John Luke  
fyi-request-24464-8f997640@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 107853

Tēnā koe John

### **Official Information Act request: Open days in New Zealand Courts**

Thank you for your email of 17 October 2023, to Hon Andrew Little's office, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to New Zealand courts open days and self-guided tours. Specifically, you asked:

- 1. Do you have any other open day events at any of the courts for the past two years? If so, where are they and when did it happen.*
- 2. For visitors wanting to do a self-guided tour there is a brochure available in the foyer of the Supreme Court. Visitors can view a video on the design of the building and a video about the court system. The courtroom can be viewed through the observation window. Can public visit the courthouse, court room for a self-guided tours elsewhere, or only the Supreme Court allow it?*

On 19 October 2023, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice from Hon Rino Tirikatene's office for response in accordance with section 14 of the Act.

In response to question 1, the following Courts have held open day events in the past two years:

- Manukau District Court Community Day on 1 April 2023
- Napier and Hastings District Courts on 5 and 6 September 2023 respectively, held in association with Te Ao Mārama. Te Ao Mārama is a judicially led kaupapa that will improve the experience for all people who participate in the court system.

In response to question 2, only the Supreme Court offers self-guided tours at present. However, most courts are open to the public on any day during the court's opening hours. The courts that are not open to the public are Family and Youth Courts and proceedings where the presiding judicial officer has ordered the courtroom be closed to the public.

If you require any further information, please contact Media & Social Media Manager Joe Locke at [media@justice.govt.nz](mailto:media@justice.govt.nz).

Please note this response with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/)

If you are not satisfied with my response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email at [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A King', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Andrea King  
**Group Manager, Senior Courts**