

22 November 2023

Rex Davey

Via email: [fyi-request-24631-23ed9aac@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-24631-23ed9aac@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Rex

### **Request for information: OIA publication communications**

Thank you for your request dated 2 November 2023 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to OIA publication communications. You requested:

*Please provide all internal communication relating to the publication of OIA responses on your website. The timeframe I would like covered is 1Jan 2022 to date.*

On 9 November 2023 Pharmac contacted you in accordance with section 18B of the Act to advise that your request as it is currently worded requires a search through a very large volume of documents and may be refused under section 18(f) of the OIA. You were advised that an initial search for documentation in scope of your request resulted in thousands of documents, each of which would need to be individually reviewed to determine whether it falls within scope of your request. You were also advised that if you are able to refine the scope of your request, Pharmac may be able to provide information you are interested in.

Pharmac is aware that this email may have not been delivered. As such this refinement email was posted to the FYI website on 9 November 2023: <https://fyi.org.nz/request/24631-oia-publication#incoming-92908>.

On 15 November 2023 you provided a refined request for:

*“all internal communication relating to the publication of OIA responses on your website.”*

*“...generated this year and within the team and business group with the main responsibility for OIA management and publication of responses.”*

Please find attached the information identified within scope of your request.

We have redacted a small amount of information from the documents as we consider this is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons (section 9(2)(a)).

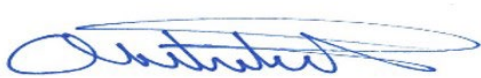
As required under the OIA, we also considered whether, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information was outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available. In this case we did not consider that the public interest outweighed the reasons for withholding the information.

To make information more freely available, we publish selected OIA responses (excluding personal details) on our website. OIA responses are published here: <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses/?year=2023>.

Please note, final versions of all attachments and documents referenced in the correspondence released to you have been published on the Pharmac website at the link above.

We trust that this information answers your queries. Please note, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your OIA, under section 28(3) of the OIA. Details of [how to make a complaint](#) are on the Ombudsman's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Oliver Whitehead  
Team Leader, Government Services

RE: Active OIAs as at 29 March 2023

Melody Willis  
To: Liz Barlow

Reply Reply All Forward

Wed 29/03/2023 5:29 pm

Here you go: [2022-23 OIA reporting spreadsheet.xlsx](#)

You'll only be able to view the sheet. I recommend changing the view to View > All OIAs then refer to columns AC and AD for whether they should be published (Y, N, or ? means TBC) (AC) and whether they have a date published (AD).

	A	B	C	D
1	Request no	Requestor name	Requestor type	Request

Ngā mihi, nā

Melody Willis (she/her) | Government Services Advisor

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From: Liz Barlow § 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:11 PM  
To: Melody Willis § 9(2)(a)  
Subject: RE: Active OIAs as at 29 March 2023

Want to send me the link to the One drive excel spreadsheet?

From: Melody Willis § 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 5:07 PM  
To: Liz Barlow § 9(2)(a)  
Subject: RE: Active OIAs as at 29 March 2023

Hey Liz

Would be incredibly helpful if you could! Lots won't have been prepared for publishing yet (since December) – we normally duplicate the OIA response letter, then delete the identifying info, then submit for approval to Allannah for publishing. We also want to go back over past OIA requests to see what can be published at some point.

Could I get you to check when the last OIAs were published? Not sure all the December ones were published or not. I have a column in the OIA excel in one Drive to indicate if something is to be published, and another column to record the date it was published (which feeds into the formula for how many are published each month).

Ngā mihi, nā

Melody Willis (she/her) | Government Services Advisor

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From: Liz Barlow § 9(2)(a)  
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:49 PM  
To: Melody Willis § 9(2)(a)  
Subject: FW: Active OIAs as at 29 March 2023

Hey. Just thinking, it's been a while since I loaded any oias. Is there anyway I can reduce the workload on you? And just grabbing them out of their file? If you've got a central spreadsheet you can just have a column to indicate if they should be published or not. I think I can cope with removing identifying info. 😊

**Subject:** RE: OIAs for publishing  
**Sent:** 9/01/2023, 10:49:54 am  
**From:** Grace Christison <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Melody Willis; Liz Barlow

---

All done 😊

Liz, when you're back please check these for layout.

---

**From:** Melody Willis <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Monday, 9 January 2023 9:30 am  
**To:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a)>; Grace Christison <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** OIAs for publishing

Kia ora e hoa ma

Please find OIAs for publishing this month within the attached folder.

Grace, if you are light on work/need something to do in Liz's absence, feel free to upload these 😊

Melody Willis has sent you a link to "06 December" (fA324711) from Objective.

Open in Navigator

Double click on the attachment

Open in Supported Application

<url:objective://id:fA324711@objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643>

Open in Your Browser

<https://objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643/id:fA324711>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** RE: Heads up re OIAs  
**Sent:** 30/03/2023, 12:17:10 pm  
**From:** Allannah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Liz Barlow; Melody Willis

---

Stoked to have you helping Liz 😊

---

**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:13 PM  
**To:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Allannah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: Heads up re OIAs

Cool. I'm just going through the December folder. There was a TAR in there but no letter to accompany it – I've sent the letter through to Allannah. Not sure where I'll get to today. But It'll keep me busy haah

---

**From:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:04 PM  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Allannah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: Heads up re OIAs

Thanks Liz

I've made some updates to the 'for publishing' column in the OIA spreadsheet which should show up. Just updating some where I believe it is unlikely that there is any benefit/public interest in publishing the response(s).

Note that some OIAs may have multiple response letters (e.g. where a response is extended but the extension letter contains partial/some relevant information). This is where I would have the first response published, then publish the 2<sup>nd</sup> response with a hyperlink back to the first response.

Ngā mihi, nā

Melody Willis ([she/her](#)) | Government Services Advisor

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**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:53 AM  
**To:** Allannah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** Heads up re OIAs

Hi

You'll see me sending you through some requests to approve anonymised OIA letters. I am terrible with Objective so please let me know if I'm doing the wrong thing.

Currently just working through the back log from last year. Then will crack onto this year. 😊

**Subject:** Update for published OIAs  
**Sent:** 30/03/2023, 5:21:28 pm  
**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a) >  
**To:** Melody Willis

---

Well.... I managed to publish one today. Haha – I'll get back at it on my return from holiday.  
2021-22-130 – published 30/3/23  
Liz

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** RE: OIA Publishing  
**Sent:** 18/05/2023, 10:23:42 am  
**From:** Gendi McFadyen <s 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Liz Barlow

---

Hi Liz,

It was sent out on 2 November 2022.

Kind regards,  
Gendi

---

**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:22 AM  
**To:** Gendi McFadyen <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIA Publishing

Hi.

Just need to know what day this was sent out on.

Thanks

---

**From:** Gendi McFadyen <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 18, 2023 8:29 AM  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** OIA Publishing

Hi Liz,

Could you please publish this OIA response on the website? Melody is away and Allanah wants it to be published today but I'm not too sure what the process is. I have deleted the personal information from the response letter but I'm not sure if the document with all the information is ready for publishing.

Kind regards,

Gendi McFadyen | Government Services Advisor  
Te Pātaka Whaioranga | Pharmac  
PO Box 10-254, Wellington 6140 | Level 9, 40 Mercer Street, Wellington 6011  
P: 0800 660 050 | [www.pharmac.govt.nz](http://www.pharmac.govt.nz)

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**Subject:** RE: OIAs for publishing - May (fA332301)  
**Sent:** 24/05/2023, 9:31:14 am  
**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Melody Willis; Gendi McFadyen

To get the actual link you'll need to click the special secure link below and then copy it from the address bar. I've asked help desk to change the security settings so that Pharmac's website is deemed secure by our own email software.

Le Sigh

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 24, 2023 9:07 AM  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>; Gendi McFadyen <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIAs for publishing - May (fA332301)

Thanks Liz

Gendi, the URL for the published OIA is <https://aus01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpharmac.govt.nz%2Fnews-and-resources%2Fofficial-information-act%2Fofficial-information-act-responses%2Faccess-to-meningococcal-b-vaccine-and-supply-of-shingles-vaccine%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cliz.barlow%40pharmac.govt.nz%7C3401119818ce4530e89b08db5bd1c0c5%7C2a64c3b0239f425bb657b2642c95b456%7C0%7C0%7C638204728656016116%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6Ikl1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Y1Fa0hkb1rDV346EJgC1euMXtfO44AhJ%2Fdsqhmjoh2o%3D&reserved=0>

Ngā mihi, nā  
Melody

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:50 PM  
**To:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: OIAs for publishing - May (fA332301)

May is done now. 😊

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Web Enquiry <[enquiry@Pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:enquiry@Pharmac.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 23, 2023 2:14 PM  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** OIAs for publishing - May (fA332301)

Kia ora Liz

Could we please have the OIA responses (3) in the attached folder published this week? At the least, we want OIA 2022-23-073 published so we can refer another OIA to that response. Could you please send us the URL when that one's live?

Ngā mihi, nā

Melody Willis (she/her) | Government Services Advisor

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**Subject:** 2021-22-106 - OIA response document - TAR 421 - Daratumumab for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, with 1 prior line of treatment copy for publishing alias (zA283238)  
**Sent:** 6/06/2023, 3:21:50 pm  
**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a) >  
**To:** Gendi McFadyen  
**Attachments:** [zA283238.obr](#)

---

Hi

I'm just loading some OIAs to the website and came across this attachment. Is it possible to make your software do text recognition? I seem to get some of these files where the text can be selected.

Thanks.

Liz

Liz Barlow has sent you a link to "2021-22-106 - OIA response document - TAR 421 - Daratumumab for relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma, with 1 prior line of treatment copy for publishing alias" (zA283238) from Objective.

Open in Navigator

Double click on the attachment

Open in Supported Application

<url:objective://id:A1581466@objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643>

Open in Your Browser

Latest: <https://objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643/id:A1581466/document/versions/latest>

Published: <https://objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643/id:A1581466/document/versions/published>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** RE: OIA Publishing  
**Sent:** 19/07/2023, 3:16:33 pm  
**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Gendi McFadyen

---

Boom – Done. 😊

<https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/official-information-act/official-information-act-responses/breakdown-of-dr-verralls-fees-and-reimbursements>

---

**From:** Gendi McFadyen <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 19 July 2023 1:21 pm  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** OIA Publishing

Hi Liz,

Could you please publish this OIA response on the website by COB today?

Kind regards,  
Gendi

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** RE: 01 July (fA335418)  
**Sent:** 28/07/2023, 1:23:29 pm  
**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Melody Willis  
**Cc:** Katy Carlson; Allanah Andrews

---

Hi

I've published the TAR. [I'd already loaded 2022-23-160](#)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 28 July 2023 9:29 am  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Katy Carlson <s 9(2)(a)>; Allanah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: 01 July (fA335418)

Thanks Liz

I've restored and re-santisied the PDF so it is text searchable. Also have added the response letter for publishing for OIA 2022-23-160.

Ngā mihi, nā

Melody Willis (she/her) | Government Services Advisor

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-----Original Message-----

**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 25, 2023 6:46 PM  
**To:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Katy Carlson <s 9(2)(a)>; Allanah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: 01 July (fA335418)

Hi

Loaded - except for the darutumumab TAR because I need it text recognised please!

Liz

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Melody Willis <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 July 2023 9:39 am  
**To:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Cc:** Katy Carlson <s 9(2)(a)>; Allanah Andrews <s 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** 01 July (fA335418)

Kia ora Liz

Please find OIA responses for publishing this month within the attached. Can you please let me know when these have been uploaded?

Ngā mihi, nā

Melody Willis (she/her) | Government Services Advisor

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Melody Willis has sent you a link to "01 July" (fA335418) from Objective.

Open in Navigator

Double click on the attachment

Open in Supported Application

[url:objective://id:fA335418@objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643](mailto:objective://id:fA335418@objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643)

Open in Your Browser

<https://objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643/id:fA335418>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** PDFs for uploading  
**Sent:** 15/09/2023, 2:58:11 pm  
**From:** Liz Barlow <s 9(2)(a) >  
**To:** Katy Carlson  
**Cc:** Allanah Andrews

---

Kia ora

As it's a nice Friday job – I thought I'd load some OIAs – wondering if you'll be able to redo the PDFs that are already in the August folder so that they're text recognised?

Liz

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** RE: Loaded all but the first 2 OIAs in the folder EOM  
**Sent:** 15/09/2023, 4:52:15 pm  
**From:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a) >  
**To:** Katy Carlson

---

Awesome I'll load that too.

---

**From:** Katy Carlson <§ 9(2)(a) >  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 September 2023 4:22 pm  
**To:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a) >  
**Subject:** RE: Loaded all but the first 2 OIAs in the folder EOM

Hey! Just added the first one (001) with new pdf versions. Will do the second next.

---

**From:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a) >  
**Sent:** Friday, 15 September 2023 4:17 pm  
**To:** Katy Carlson <§ 9(2)(a) >  
**Subject:** Loaded all but the first 2 OIAs in the folder EOM

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**Subject:** OIAs to Publish from month of September  
**Sent:** 29/09/2023, 2:53:32 pm  
**From:** Katy Carlson <S 9(2)(a) >  
**To:** Liz Barlow  
**Attachments:** [03 September.obr](#)

---

HOTTT N READDYYYY

Katy Carlson has sent you a link to "03 September" (fA340145) from Objective.

Open in Objective ECM Navigator  
Double click on the attachment

Open in Supported Application  
<url:objective://id:fA340145@objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643>

Open in Your Browser  
<https://objective.pharmac.govt.nz:8643/id:fA340145>

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

**Subject:** RE: Retention policy on the website  
**Sent:** 18/10/2023, 10:18:04 am  
**From:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**To:** Oliver Whitehead

---

Looks good. I would be change the last two clauses. "where information is no longer relevant, it may be removed from Pharmac's website."  
Just don't want to limit it to "data".

---

**From:** Oliver Whitehead <[oliver.whitehead@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:oliver.whitehead@pharmac.govt.nz)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 October 2023 10:11 am  
**To:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**Subject:** RE: Retention policy on the website

Hi Liz,

I am pulling together the high-level (very early draft) proactive release policy and have included the following wording for the update of information published section – let me know your thoughts

Regarding the other info that is proactively released I think the process should sit in a process document that compliments the policy and I would like to develop an intranet page for all things information

**Update of information published**

*If redactions have been made to documents which have been proactively released and it is determined at a later date that more information can be made available, either internally or requested by the Office of the Ombudsman, Pharmac may revise and update the proactively published information.*

*Where Official Information Act response have been published, after 3 or more years an automatic assessment of the information's relevance will be made, instances where data is no longer relevant, this information may be removed from Pharmac's website.*

---

**From:** Liz Barlow <§ 9(2)(a)>  
**Sent:** Friday, 13 October 2023 3:54 pm  
**To:** Oliver Whitehead <[oliver.whitehead@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:oliver.whitehead@pharmac.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Retention policy on the website

Hi

Following our talk yesterday – here's the current sitch with Website content management. I have also done a proposal for the published OIAs – what do you reckon? I had a quick look and we've got OIAs going back to 2019 – so if we institute this we might have a bit of work ahead of us.

For the purposes of this policy there are 4 types of content on the site:

Out of scope

4. OIA responses (i.e. where we publish what was released under OIA – redacting details that would identify the requestor)

Out of scope



Proposed approach for OIA responses:

Add a 2 year review date to all OIAs using the website's inbuilt review mechanism

After 2 years,

- Responses to data requests are unpublished
- TARs and other similar **documents** remain published – but linked from the TAR page, i.e. the substantive information remains available but the mechanism for publishing it is no longer published.
- Other OIAs are assessed at 2 years for their continuing public interest by.... ? OIA Team Lead and Principal Advisor Digital Content?
  - If it's determined that the OIA should remain published, it will be reviewed again after 1 year.

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Katy Carlson 1/11 4:26 pm  
KC hello! I'm filling out the monthly report - did i count correctly that 5 OIAs were published this month?  
1/11 4:27 pm  
yeah so far. I keep getting busy and not loading them!  
Might be time to train up Toni!  
Katy Carlson 1/11 4:27 pm  
KC ok! np

Katy Carlson 29/09 1:33 pm  
KC Hi! I have a small request  
When you publish OIAs you put a "done" in front of their name in objective. could you also put the date it was done?  
29/09 6:51 pm  
Can do. If you need to know for any specific one I can look it up in the cms

1/09 4:21 pm  
Hey Katy - with the OIAs, can you leave in the date they were sent? That's the date I put on them when I load them to the website. 😊  
For the ones you've done, I'll reference the spreadsheet - but in future, if you could just leave the date in. 😊 thanks  
1/09 4:27 pm  
Also... Can you please do text recognition on the PDF attachments. 2 reasons. 1 they're completely inaccessible to people with screen readers, 2 the files are HUGE!  
Katy Carlson 1/09 5:08 pm  
KC Liz Barlow 1/09/2023 4:21 pm  
Hey Katy - with the OIAs, can you leave in the date they were sent?  
That's the date I put on them when I load them to the website. 😊  
Is there a certain place you're referring to? I think the date is at the top of the letters usually  
Liz Barlow 1/09/2023 4:27 pm  
Also... Can you please do text recognition on the PDF attachments. 2 reasons. 1 they're completely inaccessible to people with screen...  
I actually have no idea how that works. Do you have a link to an explainer? Or maybe you can show me?  
1/09 5:09 pm  
2023-24.obr ...  
The ones that I load are in this folder.  
Katy Carlson 1/09 5:10 pm  
KC Liz Barlow 1/09/2023 5:09 pm  
2023-24.obr  
I can't get this to open 😊  
1/09 5:11 pm  
Curse you Objective.  
Emailed you.  
Do you just use the PDF-Xchange editor?

Katy Carlson 5/09 3:57 pm

KC Hi! I'm trying this on a document for the first time now  
 1

Would you happen to know if I should do it before or after I sanitize the document?

5/09 3:58 pm

no idea sorry. May be after sanitising but before you add the watermark?

I find the watermark messes with the text recognition.

Katy Carlson 5/09 3:59 pm

KC We don't have a watermark for OIAs but I'll add it after sanitizing and you can see if it works  
 (how can i check if its worked myself?)

5/09 3:59 pm

Oh? I thought all docs had a "released under the OIA" watermark - or maybe I'm imagining things.

You can check by clicking the "select text" button and see if you can select some text. 😊

Wednesday, 6 September

Katy Carlson 6/09 11:48 am

KC Ok! I figured it out so I thought I'd let you in the know...  
 Doing the OCR actually messed up the documents formatting (example to be shared)  
 BUT if I untick some boxes in the sanitize options then its still selectable. I think its the option that says "Rasterize content with overlapping objects"

First line Market Date	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Number of Patients*	36	311	311
Net Cost to Schedule*	3,000	3,000	3,000
Net Cost to DHBs (5-year NPV, 8%)	3,000		


  

Second line Market Date	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Number of Patients*	36	36	36
Net Cost to Schedule*	3,000	3,000	3,000
Net Cost to DHBs (5-year NPV, 8%)	3,000		

6/09 11:49 am

ooooo

Katy Carlson 6/09 11:49 am

KC Learned this via remote support from Melody  
 1

6/09 11:49 am

So pleased Melody could help - I literally had no idea what she did - only that she did it.

Katy Carlson 6/09 11:50 am

KC 😄


Oliver Whitehead 25/10 9:54 am

OW Morning 😊  
 Have you been given September's OIA's for publishing?

25/10 9:54 am

yes. I've made a start. Is there some you want me to prioritise?

Oliver Whitehead 25/10 9:55 am

OW Nope just checking that you have them because I had a moment of I think this is all in hand but im not entirely sure...  
 1

and we know what is said about assumptions

25/10 9:56 am

That is relatable!