



6 June 2024

Kendra Cox

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Tēnā koe Kendra

Thank you for your email to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), received on 9 May 2024, requesting information on communications to the Minister for Children regarding the repeal of section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Please release any communications between Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children; Oranga Tamariki leadership (including but not limited to the CE, DCE team, Chief Social Worker, Pou Tikanga); or contracted researchers, experts, or consultants for Oranga Tamariki and the office of the Minister for Children Karen Chhour (including any experts or consultants contracted by the office) regarding the repeal of s7aa of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

Please include any draft or final documents, e-mails, text or instant messages regarding the repeal.

As part of the recent Waitangi Tribunal inquiry, the following documents were provided:

- B-0008 Initial advice on the repeal of section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
- B-0056 Bids for the Government's 2024 Legislation Programme
- B-0058 Timeline for repeal of s7AA
- B-0084 Further Advice on bids for the Government's 2024 Legislation Programme
- B-0095 Draft Cabinet paper: Repeal of section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
- B-0124 Repeal of section 7AA: Cabinet paper summary and talking points
- B-0113 Cabinet paper: Repeal of section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, following Ministerial consultation

These documents have now been published on the Oranga Tamariki website [here](#).

IN-CONFIDENCE

In addition, a Regulatory Impact Statement and a Cabinet paper on the repeal of section 7AA can be found on the Oranga Tamariki website [here](#).

As these documents are publicly available, this part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

I consider documents and advice relating to the Waitangi Tribunal's inquiry into the repeal of Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, and related court proceedings, to be out of scope of this request. If these communications were in scope, it is likely that a substantial portion of the information would be withheld in full under section 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

Please find attached as Appendix One the following documents:

- B-0140 Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of Section 7AA) Amendment Bill Approval for Introduction
- B-0153 Cabinet Paper Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of section 7AA) Amendment Bill following Ministerial consultation
- B-0154 Repeal of section 7AA LEG Cabinet paper summary and talking points
- Press release - Repeal of Section 7AA bill introduced to Parliament
- An excerpt from the weekly report for the week ending 5 April 2024

Please note that some information has been withheld under the following grounds:

- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i) maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
- 9(2)(g)(ii) to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the protection of employees from improper pressure or harassment

Please note that B-0153 and B-0154 originally included copies of a draft Cabinet paper and a draft Bill – these have been withheld from both documents under the following sections of the Act:

- Draft Cabinet paper: 9(2)(g)(i) maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
- Draft Bill: 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege

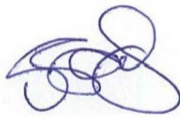
The Departmental Disclosure Statement and Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of Section 7AA) Amendment Bill can be found on the New Zealand Legislation website [here](#).

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

IN-CONFIDENCE

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned below the text 'Nāku noa, nā'.

Phil Grady
Deputy Chief Executive
System Leadership