

# Office of Hon Nicola Willis

Minister of Finance  
Minister for the Public Service  
Minister for Social Investment  
Associate Minister of Climate Change



4 November 2024

John Luke  
[fyi-request-28512-ab367cc4@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-28512-ab367cc4@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear John

## Official Information Request Reference MOIA 2024-0279 and MOIA 2024-0280

I refer to your official information requests dated 24 September 2024 for:

*“Given your mandate for public servants to return to the office, I would like to know:*

- The number of times consultations (formal or informal) were conducted with relevant public service unions, employee representatives, and public servants before the decision to mandate a return to the office.*
- All records of consultations (formal or informal) conducted with relevant public service unions, employee representatives, and public servants before the decision to mandate a return to the office.”*

### Information not held

I am refusing your request for information regarding consultations to mandate a return to the office under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds the information does not exist.

I note:

1. I have not mandated that all public servants return to the office and have instead made clear that guidelines for public agencies should make clear that working from home arrangements should be consistent with performance requirements and not be treated as an entitlement; and
2. Consultation on revised guidelines is being led by the Public Service Commission and I expect them to engage appropriately with unions and others.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Misty Mossman at [Misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:Misty.mossman@parliament.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Willis'.

Hon Nicola Willis  
**Minister for the Public Service**