

15 November 2024

File Ref: OIA 50297

Craig Innes

fyi-request-28803-c4669403@requests.fyi.org.nz

fyi-request-28801-a2892024@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Craig

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request from fyi-request-28801-a2892024@requests.fyi.org.nz dated 18 October 2024. You asked for the following information:

“On 18 January 2022 a request for information relating to the issues of workplace bullying and sexual harassment at the Ministry of Justice was made under the Official Information Act 1982 to Kris Faafoi. The request for the information was refused.

After discussion with the Office of the Ombudsman, a fresh set of requests is was made.

This resulted in a request for information under the Official Information Act 1982 from the following agencies:

*The Ministry of Justice
The Office of the Minister of Justice
Department of Internal Affairs
The Office of the Prime Minister and Cabinet*

The information requested was all information relating to the issue of workplace bullying and sexual harassment occurring within the Waitangi Tribunal Unit (the body within the Ministry of Justice that provides administrative and support services to the Waitangi Tribunal -not the Waitangi Tribunal itself), since 2017.

This request included all the papers or documents relating to each respective Minister of Justice and Associate Minister of Justice since 2017.

After these requests were made discussions with a former Minister of Justice indicated that they believed that employment issues with the Waitangi Tribunal were overseen by Te Puni Kokiri.

This request is for all information relating to the issues of workplace bullying and sexual harassment of staff by senior staff at the Waitangi Tribunal from the date 1 January 2016 held by (or previously held by) Te Puni Kōkiri.”

On 18 October 2024, you made a further request for the same information as above, from fyi-request-28803-c4669403@requests.fyi.org.nz, with an amendment to the last paragraph of your request, as follows:

“This request is for all information relating to the issues of workplace bullying and sexual harassment of staff by senior staff at the Waitangi Tribunal from the date 1 January 2016 held by (and previously held by) the Minister and the Minister's Office. This request is not to be forwarded to the Ministry. A separate request has been made to the Ministry.”

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Te Puni Kōkiri does not have responsibility for employment issues within the Waitangi Tribunal Unit (which forms part of the Ministry of Justice). Therefore, we are refusing your requests under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at oiia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Steven Sutton
Hautū, Te Puni Tapatahi | Deputy Secretary, Governance