



27 NOV 2024

P Robins  
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## Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA2324-133

I am responding to your email of 3 November 2024 requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*...all communications in any form staff in your office employed by Ministerial Services sent and received in September 2024 in regards to changes you are making to the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Regulations for same sex parents, inclusive but not limit to the policy development, agreement and the press release.*

### Response to your request

There are 23 documents that fall within the scope of your request, including:

- 16 emails
- seven WhatsApp messages

These documents are attached as **Appendix A**. I am partially releasing some documents with some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons, and 9(2)g(i) to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown. Some information is redacted as it is out of scope.

### Public interest considerations

As required by section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding this information are outweighed by other factors which would make it desirable, in the public interest, to make them available. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

### Accessing the Ombudsman

You have a 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 blue ink, appearing to be 'BW'.

Hon Brooke van Velden  
**Minister of Internal Affairs**