

7 February 2025

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Our ref: OIA 118541

Tēnā koe Spencer

Official Information Act request: Conflict of interest policies

Thank you for your email of 19 December 2024 requesting information, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), regarding the Ministry of Justice's (the Ministry) policies and procedures on conflicts of interest. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

- 1. Does the Ministry of Justice have any policies in place regarding conflicts of interest arising from membership in Freemasonry among its employees?*

All employees are expected to disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest when they arise irrespective of what the source is. The Ministry does not have any policies relating to Freemasonry.

- 2. If the Ministry of Justice does not have a specific policy on Freemasonry, are there broader conflict of interest policies that would apply to such situations?*

The Ministry does have a Conflict of Interest policy. The policy is comprehensive and outlines the Ministry's expectations relating to all actual, potential or perceived conflicts. I understand that on the 19 December 2024, you made an additional request for information to the Ministry, asking for a copy of this policy. A response to that request will be provided to you separately and as soon as practicable.

- 3. Does the Ministry of Justice maintain a register or record of employees who have declared membership in Freemasonry or any other potential conflicts of interest related to this organization?*

All conflicts of interest are recorded. However, there is no specific conflict register relating to membership of the freemasons.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28 of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SSM', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sheridan Smith
General Manager, Ātea a Rangi - Strategy