

27 February 2024

s9(2)(a)

Mālō 'e lelei s9(2)(a)

RESPONSE TO AN OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST (REF: DOIA042-2023/24)

On 29 January 2024, you contacted the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (the Ministry) requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information relating to all internal communication in the Ministry from August 2023 to now, regarding job cuts and savings targets. I've outlined your requests and my responses to each below.'

1. *I'm getting in touch under the Official Information Act to please request all internal communication in the Ministry from August 2023 to now, regarding job cuts and savings targets.*

The only internal communications about job cuts and savings targets relate to formulating a draft response to a media request the Ministry received on this topic. I must withhold these communications under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by officials. I can, however, confirm that the media request specifically asked about:

- communications sent to all staff about potential redundancies or restructures
- if any job cuts had already been made or are proposed to be made
- whether any voluntary redundancies had been offered to staff
- whether the Ministry's cost savings target was 6.5% or more

The final response the Ministry provided in response to this request is below:

No decisions about organisational restructures or redundancies have been made, or whole-of-staff communications sent.

2. Please also provide the amount of FTEs and the proposed ideal amount of FTEs under the new Government's cost saving model in the public service.

The Ministry current employs 127 FTEs. I am refusing your request for information on “the proposed ideal amount of FTEs under the new Government’s cost saving model in the public service” under s18(e) of the OIA as the information request does not exist.

3. In addition, am I please able to get a copy of communication between the Ministry and the Minister, on the topic of cost savings and job cuts?

I am withholding all communications between the Ministry and the Minister for Pacific Peoples under section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. I am satisfied that there are no other public interest considerations that render it desirable to make the information withheld under section 9 of the OIA available.

In line with standard OIA practice, the Ministry proactively publishes some of its responses to OIA requests. As such, this letter may be published on the Ministry for Pacific Peoples’ website. Your personal details will be removed, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you or your organisation.

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact the Ministry at: uia_requests@mpp.govt.nz.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Mālō ‘aupito



Ali Ajmal
**Deputy Secretary,
Office of the Secretary**