



24 April 2024

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Tēnā koe Mark

**Official Information Act 1982 request, reference OIA2324-0723**

Thank you for your request of 11 March 2024 for the following information from the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. Recommendation 14 of the Belinda Clark review, Independent Review of FENZ's Workplace Culture and Complaint Handling Practices (Nov 2022) is titled: "Conduct complaints are investigated and determined by an independent body". The review Report states: "DIA should provide advice to the Minister by 28 February 2023 on options for how best to implement this recommendation."*
- 2. Please provide all information around DIA's response to this Recommendation, including all information post-28 Feb 2023.*

On 14 March 2024, officials from the Department contacted you by email to refine the scope of your request. As no response was received, your request for information has been interpreted as official advice, which includes briefings, cabinet papers, and risk assessments.

On 10 April 2024, you were advised that an extension of the timeframe for your request was necessary as your request necessitated a search through a large quantity of information. You were advised that a response would be provided by 3 May 2024.

As per your previous request under the Act (OIA2223-0915), I can confirm that the Department provided advice to the Minister of Internal Affairs regarding recommendation 14 of the Independent Review of FENZ's Workplace Culture and Complaint Handling Practices (November 2022).

This advice remains under active consideration. Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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

## **Access to the Ombudsman**

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to seek an investigation and review of my decision by the Office of the Ombudsman. The postal address of the Office of the Ombudsman is PO Box 10152, Wellington. Alternatively, you can phone 0800 802 602 or email [info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Cauchi". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeremy Cauchi

**Director Ministerial, Monitoring, and Capability**