

4 December 2023



John Luke

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REF: DOIA-2324-0328

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act 1982 request: Conflict of Interest and meeting minutes

Thank you for your email of 11 November 2023 to the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (the Ministry) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*...I noted all [panel] members had conflict for Natraj School of Dance, what is your internal process of dealing this situation, can you please supply your internal procedure of dealing conflict. Also how was this situation been dealt with?
May I further request the full meeting minutes from 22 June 2023 to 11 Nov 2023....*


I note this is a follow up request to OIA2324-0253 which was provided to you on 8 November 2023, and referred to conflicting interests for panel members of the Ethnic Communities Developmental Fund (ECDF).

In response to the first part of your request, in the case that all ECDF members have a conflict of interest, the Ministry's Deputy Chief Executive (DCE), System Capability and Programmes holds the final decision on funding.

In response to the second part of your request, five documents are within scope and attached to this letter. Please note that the names of individual members of the requesting organisations have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act; to protect the privacy of natural persons. Summary information of these documents can be found in the Document Schedule at the end of this letter.

As is required by section 9 of the Act, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding information under section 9(2)(a) of the OIA 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.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of our response to your request. Information about how to contact the Ombudsman's office is available at: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone: 0800 802 602.




Please note, due to the public interest in our work, the Ministry may publish responses to requests for official information on our website, shortly after the response has been sent. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact our Ministerial Services team: ministerial@ethniccommunities.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi



Edward Firth

Director of Ministerial Services



Document Schedule

No.	Date	Title	Comments
1	26 July 2023	26 July 2023 ECDF panel meeting minutes	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
2	25 August 2023	25 August 2023 ECDF panel meeting minutes	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)
3	13 September 2023	13 September 2023 ECDF panel meeting minutes	Released in full
4	28 September 2023	28 September 2023 ECDF panel meeting minutes	Released in full
5	27 October 2023	27 October 2023 ECDF panel meeting minutes	Some information withheld under s9(2)(a)