

Hon Judith Collins KC

Attorney General
Minister of Defence
Minister for Digitising Government
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
Minister for Space



Ref: JCOIA-225

Erin Cordiff
fyi-request-29008-259b8e1e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Erin

Thank you for your email of 18 November 2024 to my Office requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

I am requesting under the OIA, any documents that you or the SSAG have in regards to:

- *Genomics Aotearoa and the process of determining national research priorities.*
- *The funding of Genomics Aotearoa after 30th June 2024.*

Decision to release

In responding to your request for information, please note that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) extended the end date of the contract with Genomics Aotearoa from 30 June 2024 to 31 December 2024. No additional funding was provided by MBIE for this time-only extension.

Regarding the first part of your request, neither I nor the Science System Advisory Group hold information about Genomics Aotearoa in relation to determining national research priorities. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act on the grounds that the documents alleged to contain the information requested do not exist.

There are six documents within scope of the second part of your request. These **documents** and my decision on each are listed in the table below:

#	Title	Decision	Withholding grounds under the Act
1	Weekly Report: Science, Innovation and Technology (Item 1 only) - REDACTED	Partial Release	9(2)(f)(iv) Pages 3-8 are also redacted as they are not in scope for this request.
2	Event Briefing, Genomics Aotearoa, 22 October 2024 - REDACTED	Partial Release	9(2)(a)

3	Briefing: SIT Investment Portfolio Update - REDACTED	Partial Release	9(2)(a) Further information has been redacted as it is not in scope for this request.
4	Genomics Aotearoa – Briefing to the Minister 22 October 2024	Released in Full	
5	Genomics for the Future of Aotearoa	Withheld in Full	18(d)
6	2024 Genomics Aotearoa Annual Report	Withheld in Full	18(d)

Please note some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- advice regarding future decisions is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- documents 5 and 6 (dropbox links within the document 'Genomics Aotearoa – Briefing to the Minister 22 Oct 2024') are withheld in full under section 18(d) as they have been made publicly available and can be found on the Genomics Aotearoa website (<https://www.genomics-aotearoa.org.nz/resources>).

I do not consider that withholding this information is outweighed by public interest considerations in making the information available.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact my office or OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,



Hon Judith Collins KC

Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology