



MP for Epsom

Deputy Prime Minister (from 31 May 2025)

Minister for Regulation

Associate Minister of Education (Partnership Schools)

Associate Minister of Finance

Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac)

Associate Minister of Justice (Treaty Principles Bill)

13 DEC 2024

Rhiannon Bond

fyi-request-29129-ebcc9f93@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Rhiannon

Official Information Act request: Treaty Principles Bill

Thank you for your email of 10 November 2024, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Treaty Principles Bill development and consultation information.

On 11 November 2024, my office contacted you to advise that your request would likely capture a significant amount of information and could be declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, on the basis that the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. You were invited to rescope your request to narrow down the information being sought.

On 14 November, you advised you had refined your request to seek the following information:

1. Key Stakeholder Consultation Records

- A list of all iwi representatives and Māori organisations consulted during the drafting of the Treaty Principles Bill, along with any submissions or feedback documents provided by these stakeholders.*
- This request specifically seeks information about engagement with Māori stakeholders to understand the extent of input considered from a Te Tiriti o Waitangi perspective.*

2. Legal Advice on Treaty Compliance

- A summary or excerpts of the legal advice provided regarding the Bill's alignment with Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. If full documents cannot be provided, please include any sections discussing key risks or legal considerations related to compliance with Treaty principles.*

3. Cost Analysis for Implementation

- Any financial analysis or budget impact assessment related to the implementation of the Treaty Principles Bill, including projected costs for government departments and any risk mitigation plans.*

4. *Impact Assessment on Māori Communities*

- *A copy of any impact assessment reports or internal memos discussing the potential effects of the Treaty Principles Bill on Māori communities.*

Part one of your request seeks key stakeholder consultation records, including a list of all iwi representatives and Māori organisations consulted during the drafting of the Treaty Principles Bill, along with any submissions or feedback documents provided by these stakeholders. This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist.

I have interpreted part two of your request as a request for any information which discusses, or provides advice on, any legal considerations/issues related to the Bill's compliance with te Tiriti/the Treaty and its principles. This may include – but is not limited to – legal advice provided in confidence. As a result, some information that falls in scope of your request contains advice on legal risks and issues related to Treaty of Waitangi compliance.

Please refer to **Table 1**, attached below, that outlines the documents in scope of part two of your request and my decision on their release.

Part three of your request seeks any financial analysis or budget impact assessment related to the implementation of the Treaty Principles Bill, including projected costs for government departments and any risk mitigation plans. This part of your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available at: [Regulatory Impact Statement](#). You can refer to pages 18-19 of the Regulatory Impact Statement for the information sought.

Lastly, part four of your request seeks a copy of any impact assessment reports or internal memos, discussing the potential effects of the Treaty Principles Bill on Māori communities. This part of your request is also refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available at: [Regulatory Impact Statement](#). You can refer to the Executive Summary, paragraphs 53-55, and pages 16, 18 and 19, for the information sought.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) 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.

Yours sincerely



Hon David Seymour
Associate Minister of Justice (Treaty Principles Bill)

Table 1: Documents in scope of part two – Legal Advice on Treaty Compliance

Date	Document type	Document title	Decision on release	Page/paragraph within document
28/02/2024	Legislation Bid	Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill: Request for priority in the 2024 Legislation Programme	Refused under s18(d) – publicly available at: forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt_DOC_213144833/Wai%203300%2C%20A007.pdf	Paragraph 10.1
14/12/2023	Briefing	Developing a Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill		Paragraphs 18-21
12/03/2024	Briefing	Policy options for progressing a Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill		Paragraphs 13, 14 & 36
9/08/2024	Aide Memoire	Updated timeframe for the Treaty Principles Bill	Refused under s18(d) – publicly available at: forms.justice.govt.nz/search/Documents/WT/wt_DOC_220158087/Wai%203300,%20A031.pdf	Paragraphs 9-10
21/08/2024	Briefing	Treaty Principles Bill: Update on Wording and Waitangi Tribunal Findings		Paragraphs 8-11, 15, 17, 22, 31-33 & 38-42
28/08/2024	Regulatory Impact Statement	Providing certainty on the Treaty principles	Refused under s18(d) – publicly available at: beehive.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-09/Regulatory%20Impact%20Assessment%20Treaty%20Principles%20Bill.pdf	Pages 2-3, paragraphs 26, 32-36 & 42-46
9/09/2024	Cabinet paper	Policy approvals for progressing a Treaty Principles Bill		Paragraphs 19, 45-46, 55-56 & 58-60
24/10/2024	Document	Departmental Disclosure Statement	Refused under s18(d) – publicly available at: disclosure.legislation.govt.nz/assets/disclosures/bill_government_2024_94.pdf	Page 7, part 3.2
27/10/2024	Briefing	Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill	Refused under s18(d) – publicly available at: justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/20241107-Treaty-Principles-Bill.pdf	Paragraphs 8, 10 & 14-18
29/10/2024	Cabinet Paper	Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill: Approval for Introduction, paragraph 39 & 42-44		Released as excerpts under s16(1)(e)