



16 March 2026

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0025973-Sam Brown

Sam Brown

Email: fyi-request-33445-f8dccd94@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Sam

Thank you for your email of 6 January 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *Any analysis of how government funding decisions, policy settings, or regulatory frameworks have influenced competitive dynamics in rural telecommunications markets, including whether these impacts were assessed during policy development.*
2. *Any advice to Ministers regarding unintended consequences of policy settings that may accelerate market concentration or elimination of terrestrial connectivity providers from rural areas.*
3. *Any assessment of risks associated with rural telecommunications transitioning from multiple competing providers using diverse technologies to effective single-provider dominance, including:*
 - *consumer protection implications if the dominant provider later raises prices significantly;*
 - *infrastructure resilience concerns if alternative networks are economically abandoned; and*
 - *whether market structure changes align with government objectives for competition, consumer choice, and essential service resilience.*
4. *Any analysis of whether government has considered ‘what happens next’ scenarios if current market trajectory results in:*
 - *elimination of terrestrial alternatives from rural markets;*
 - *effective monopoly by foreign-controlled satellite provider/s;*
 - *subsequent price increases once competitive constraint is removed; and*
 - *consumer harm that cannot be remedied by market re-entry due to infrastructure barriers.*
5. *Any advice on whether policy settings should include mechanisms to maintain infrastructure diversity, prevent irreversible market concentration, or protect against elimination of competition in essential services markets.*
6. *Any assessment of whether decisions about rural connectivity funding have adequately considered long-term market structure implications versus short-term problem-solving convenience.*

On 22 January 2026, you clarified that the time period for this request is 1 January 2022 to 6 January 2026. On 27 January 2026, you were advised that the date for replying to your request had been reset to 20 February 2026. This was done under section 15(1AA) of the Act.

On 19 February 2026, you were advised that the due date for responding had been extended by 10 working days to no later than 6 March 2026. On 6 March 2026, you were advised that a decision in principle had been made.

Response to your request

There are 13 documents that fall within the scope of your request. A list of these documents can be found below at **Table One**.

I am partially releasing four documents. Some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons;
- 9(2)(ba)(i), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied;
- 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; and
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

Additionally, some information is being withheld as it falls outside the scope of your request. The documents being released are attached as **Appendix A**.

I am withholding nine documents under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(f)(iv);
- 9(2)(g)(i); and
- 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.

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

Other matters

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

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Deborah Crawford
Manager, Communications Policy
Building, Resources and Markets

Table One: Documents in scope

#	Document name	Document date	Released or withheld	Reason for withholding
1	[Briefing #0023157] <i>Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>	6 November 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv)
2	[Briefing #0020594] <i>Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>	23 October 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(h)
3	[Event briefing #0022166] <i>Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>	16 October 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv)
4	[Event briefing #0021712] Meeting with Deputy Prime Minister regarding telecommunications regulatory review	Undated	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)
5	Options for <i>Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>	October 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv)
6	[Event briefing #0018559] Meeting with the Minister for Regulation	7 August 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)
7	Options for <i>Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>	May 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i) Out of scope
8	[Event Briefing #0012601] Meeting with Hon David Seymour	10 April 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)
9	<i>Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv)</i>	March 2025	Withheld	9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)
10	[Briefing #0004291] Chorus and Spark Telecommunications Service Obligations	4 December 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)
11	[Email chain] Meeting Briefing Request – Rural Broadband infrastructure	1 October to 1 November 2024	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i)
12	[Attachment 1 to Document 11] [Draft] Rural Broadband Infrastructure and Starlink	Undated	Partially released	9(2)(a) 9(2)(g)(i)
13	[Extract] Rural connectivity: State of play and options for improvement	May 2024	Partially released	9(2)(ba)(i) 9(2)(f)(iv) 9(2)(g)(i)