

31 March 2026

John Luke
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Our ref: OIA 130140

Tēnā koe John

Official Information Act request: Ministerial Advisory Group for Victims of Retail Crime

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2026 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Ministerial Advisory Group for Victims of Retail Crime (MAG). Specifically, you requested:

I would like to request to view all meeting agendas and meeting minutes of this group since its establishment.

I would like to review the documents related to how this decision was made, particularly in relation to the statement in the news that the group “rejected advice from officials about which office it should rent, preferring a more expensive option for privacy reasons.” Specifically, I would like to see the advice provided by officials, as well as the reasons given by the group for rejecting that advice.

On 10 March 2026, the Ministry advised that the time frame to respond to your request was extended, in line with section 15A(1)(b) of the Act, as consultations necessary to make a decision on your request meant that a response to the request could not be made within the original time limit.

In response to your request, please refer to **Tables 1** and **2** below for the documents identified in scope. Some information has been released to you as an excerpt in accordance with section 16(1)(e) of the Act, and some information has been withheld under the following sections of the Act:

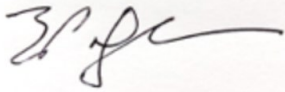
- section 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the constitutional conventions that protect confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

In withholding information under section 9 of the Act, I have considered the public interest and do not consider that it outweighs withholding the information at this time.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28 of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on: 0800 802 602, by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or via the webform: [Make a complaint \(for members of the public\) | Ombudsman New Zealand](#).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Douglas', written on a light-colored background.

Emily Douglas

Acting Director, Office of the Deputy Secretary, Policy

Table 1: List of agendas and meeting minutes MAG has held since its establishment

Doc no.	Date	Document type	Document title	Decision on release
1	3 September 2024	Meeting Agenda	Victims of Retail Crime Ministerial Advisory Group Meeting with Ministers Goldsmith and McKee Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2	16 September 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group 1 st Meeting Agenda	Released in full.
3	2 October 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Released in full.
4	7 November 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5	5 December 2024	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6	13 February 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a).
7		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	
8	6 March 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
9		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	

Doc no.	Date	Document type	Document title	Decision on release
10	3 April 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
11		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	
12	1 May 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
13	8 May 2025	Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
14	5 June 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
15		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	
16	3 July 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a); and • 9(2)(f)(iv)
17		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	
18	7 August 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
19		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a); and • 9(2)(f)(iv)

Doc no.	Date	Document type	Document title	Decision on release
20	1 September 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
21	4 September 2025	Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a); and • 9(2)(f)(iv)
22	6 November 2025	Agenda	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Agenda	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
23		Agenda Minutes	Ministerial Advisory Group, Members Meeting Minutes	Some information withheld under the following sections of the Act: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9(2)(a); and • 9(2)(f)(iv)

Table 2: List of documents, advice, reasons for choosing an office to rent.

Doc no.	Date	Document type	Document title	Decision on release
1	28 August 2024	Report	Property Visit Report	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
2	28 August 2024	Aide Memoire	Inaugural meeting of the Victims of Retail Crime Ministerial Advisory Group	Released as an excerpt under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, with the remaining information removed as out of scope.
3	3 October 2024	Memorandum	Memorandum	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4	11 February 2025	Email	Auckland MOJ space options	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5	N/A	Transition Document	Victims of Retail Crime: Ministerial Advisory Group – Transition Document	Released as an excerpt under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, with the remaining information removed as out of scope.