

OIA26-0224

24 April 2026

Nigel Gray
fyi-request-33798-5596c2c2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your email of 20 March 2026 requesting reconsideration of part of your earlier request, OIA26-0127. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

You requested the following:

To assist MPI in progressing this request, I wish to clarify the scope of the items declined under section 18(f). The following refinements are intended to ensure the request can be met without substantial collation or research.

Item 3 — External Input Into Public Statements

This item is already limited to:

- *final published versions only*
- *only those documents that received external review, edits, or approval*
- *only the record of external input (name, nature of input, date)*

To further assist, please limit this search to:

- *documents produced by Te Uru Rākau / NZ Forest Service*
- *documents published between 1 January 2023 – 22 February 2026*

Public statements made by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) officials are prepared and approved through internal processes only. As no external input is used, the requested information does not exist and is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA as *the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.*

Item 4 — Meetings With Forestry--Sector Representatives

To reduce scope, please limit this to:

- *meetings held by Te Uru Rākau / NZ Forest Service*
- *between 1 January 2023 – 22 February 2026*

I confirm that I am not seeking minutes, notes, or detailed records — only the meeting list (date, attendees, subject/purpose).

On 2 April 2026, MPI sought clarification to refine this part of your request. As noted in our previous response (OIA26-0127), the scope and timeframe are substantial. As no clarification was received by the specified date, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the OIA as *the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*

As per section 18B of the OIA, we have considered whether consulting with you would enable the request to be made in a form that would remove the reason for the refusal. However, we do not consider that the request can be refined further in this instance after previously attempting to refine your request with you under OIA26-0127.

Item 5 — Conflict-of-Interest Declarations

Specifically, I request:

To address privacy considerations, I am happy for MPI to provide this information in anonymised form.

- *the number of declarations made*
- *the general nature of the conflicts*
- *the business units involved*
- *the dates on which declarations were made*
- *any mitigation steps recorded*

No names or identifying details are required.

Across MPI, conflicts of interest typically relate to personal relationships, financial or other personal interests, secondary employment, or voluntary activities. These are commonly managed through measures such as:

- recusal from specific work or decision-making
- not sharing non-public information
- restricting access to specific information
- increased oversight
- limiting involvement or influence.

MPI's conflict of interest management process consists of two parts, which are completed annually by all staff:

- June: All staff are required to discuss any conflicts of interest, secondary employment, or volunteer roles with their manager and to create or update a management plan where there are any actual, perceived, or potential conflicts. The management plan is then included in staff's personnel file.
- July: All staff must complete the Conflict-of-Interest Declaration on MPI's learning and development platform, Tiritiri, regardless of whether they have a conflict of interest. Completion of this online declaration confirms that the individual has informed their manager of any interests that could be assessed as an actual, perceived, or potential conflict, secondary employment, or voluntary work, and that a management plan has been agreed (or that none is required). The declaration itself is not a management plan; this should already have been completed in June, where applicable.

The last declaration of a conflict of interest was completed by MPI staff in July 2025.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely,



Olivia Sullivan
Director Forestry System