



29 April 2026

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Jorja

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Tēnā koe Jorja,

Your Official Information Act 1982 request, reference (OIA2526-0949)

I am responding to your email of 6 March 2026 to the Department of Internal Affairs (the Department) requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request any of the following documents or information which contain the term "Grok" (i.e. the AI tool used on the platform X):

- *formal briefings and aides-memoire to Ministers*
- *internal correspondence sent and received by Tier 1, 2 and 3 staff*
- *agendas and minutes from internal or inter-departmental governance groups, including those with Ministers and/or senior officials in attendance*

In addition, I would like to know the number of times the word "Grok" has appeared within DIA's information system.

Extension to your request

On 7 April 2026, the Department advised you that the timeframe to respond to your request had been extended by 15 working days to 29 April 2026 under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

Decision regarding your request

There are 20 documents within scope of your request. These items are correspondence exchanged between the Department and other public agencies by Tier 1, 2 and 3 staff. We have made a decision in principle on these documents under the Act to allow further time to complete additional consultation. The documents will be released with some information 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)(b)(i), would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source;
- 9(2)(b)(ii), would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information;

- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the free and frank expression of opinions by employees of any public service agency;
- 9(2)(j), enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations; and
- Out of scope

For some parts of your request, any information that the Department is unable to locate will be refused under sections 18(e) and/or 18(g) of the Act. These parts of your request will be confirmed in our subsequent letter to you.

In response to the final part of your request regarding the number of times the word “Grok” has appeared, the term has been used 926 times (as at the time of response) within the Department’s information systems.

Release of information

We anticipate releasing this information to you by 13 May 2026. As noted earlier, this timeframe is required to allow sufficient time for the completion of the remaining consultation related to the documents within scope.

Where possible, we will provide the documents in advance of this date and will keep you informed of any issues or delays affecting delivery.

Public interest considerations

As is required by section 9(1) of the Act, we have considered whether the withholding of information is outweighed by other public interest considerations which would make it desirable to make this information available. In this instance, we do not consider this to be the case.

Access to the Ombudsman

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

Nāku noa, nā



Mark Batt
**Director Branch Performance
Policy and Te Tiriti**