



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

30 April 2026

Hayden

[fyi-request-34106-af5e907e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34106-af5e907e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Hayden

## **Official Information Request**

**Our Ref: OIA 2026-0095**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request transferred to us on 13 April 2026 from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, asking:

*“What mechanism exists for ensuring that the stewardship obligations under sections 12 and 52 of the Public Service Act 2020 — specifically the requirement to provide advice on the “long-term implications of policies” and to “proactively promote stewardship” — are met in relation to cross-portfolio mortality impacts.”*

## **Information being released**

As outlined in our response of 2 April 2026 to your previous request (OIA 2026-0057), the Public Service Commissioner (the Commissioner) reviews the performance of Public Service chief executives through a process of setting annual performance expectations and then completing an annual performance review against those expectations, including receiving advice from responsible ministers on performance. All legislative responsibilities of the chief executive fall within scope of the performance review process. This includes responsibilities under legislation the agency administers, as well as those set out in section 52 of the Public Service Act 2020. Ministerial input into the performance review process is particularly important, both in setting performance expectations and reviewing performance against those expectations.

The Commissioner has issued a Code of Conduct for the public sector which is supported by [principles guidance](#) which can be found on the Commission’s website.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [Enquiries@publicservice.govt.nz](mailto:Enquiries@publicservice.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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this response (with your personal details removed) on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicky Dirks', with a stylized, cursive script.

Nicky Dirks

**Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services  
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission**