



# Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

20 April 2026

Hannah Pataka

[fyi-request-34169-19ee5ce3@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-34169-19ee5ce3@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Hanna

## **Official Information Request**

**Our Ref: OIA 2026-0063**

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) received on 19 March 2026 for:

*1. Guidance and standards*

*Please provide:*

- any guidance, policies, or advisory material issued by the Commission relating to conflicts of interest in ministerial offices
- any material addressing the management of actual, potential, or perceived conflicts arising from personal or professional relationships within ministerial environments

*2. Advice to Ministers or offices*

*Please provide:*

- any advice, correspondence, or engagement between the Commission and: the office of Hon Casey Costello
- Ministerial Services
- any other relevant agency
- relating to conflict of interest management in ministerial offices during the relevant period

*3. Awareness of specific matters*

*Please provide any records indicating whether the Commission:*

- was made aware of, or engaged on, any matter relating to:
  - Jade Paul
  - Travis Ancelet
- any potential or perceived conflict of interest arising from overlapping roles or associations
- considered, assessed, or provided input on any such matter

*4. Escalation and oversight*

*Please provide:*

- any records of concerns, notifications, or issues raised with the Commission relating to conflict of interest management in ministerial offices
- any internal discussions, assessments, or reviews undertaken in response

*5. System-level observations*

*Please provide:*

- any reports, summaries, or internal analysis relating to:
- conflict of interest risks in ministerial offices
- management of relationships that may intersect with official duties

**Information Publicly Available - Part one**

The Public Service Commissioner has a system leadership role in setting expectations for how conflicts of interest are identified, disclosed, and managed across the Public Service. The Public Service Commission (Commission) issues [Model Standards on conflicts of interest](#), which set minimum expectations for public service departments, agencies, and employees to support transparency and integrity. These standards cover actual, potential, and perceived conflicts and emphasise the responsibility of individuals and chief executives to identify and manage conflicts appropriately and are publicly available on the Commission's website at the link provided above.

We are therefore refusing part one of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA on the grounds the information is publicly available.

The Commission does not manage or approve individual conflict of interest decisions within agencies or ministerial offices. Responsibility for managing conflicts within departments sits with each agency's chief executive, while conflicts relating to ministerial offices are managed through the Cabinet Office or through the Department of Internal Affairs, not the Commission.

**Information does not exist - Parts two to five**

The Commission does not hold any information in regard to parts two to five of your request. Therefore, I am refusing these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, this information does not exist.

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



Nicky Dirks

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