

7 July 2026

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Our ref: OIA 133368

Tēnā koe Harry

Official Information Act Request: Cryptocurrency confiscation orders and proceeds

Thank you for your email of 9 June 2026 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry). Under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), you requested:

I request the following information:

A. Confiscation orders

- 1. The number of confiscation orders issued involving cryptocurrency assets in New Zealand, broken down by year from 2015 to present.*
- 2. The total estimated value of cryptocurrency subject to confiscation orders, broken down by year where records allow.*
- 3. The legislation under which cryptocurrency assets are most commonly confiscated in New Zealand - including the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009 and any other relevant statutes.*

B. Legal process

- 4. The legal process that must be followed before seized cryptocurrency can be liquidated or transferred following a confiscation order.*
- 5. Whether there are any legal constraints on when or how quickly seized cryptocurrency can be sold after a confiscation order is granted.*
- 6. How New Zealand courts and the Ministry treat the valuation of cryptocurrency assets for the purposes of confiscation proceedings, given price volatility.*

C. Proceeds

- 7. Where the proceeds from liquidated cryptocurrency assets go following a confiscation order - including whether funds are returned to consolidated revenue, distributed to victims, or allocated to specific funds.*

8. *Whether there is a public record of proceeds received from cryptocurrency confiscations.*

D. Policy

9. *Whether the Ministry of Justice has issued or is developing any specific policy guidance on the treatment of cryptocurrency assets in criminal proceedings.*

Please provide documents, records, policies or guidelines that are held and can be released under the Act. Where information cannot be released in full, I ask that it be released in part with reasons given for any withholding.

A response to your request is being prepared. However, the consultations necessary mean that a proper response cannot be reasonably made within the original timeframe. Therefore, I am extending the time limit for reply under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act and will respond to you no later than 16 July 2026.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about the decision to extend the time for responding to your request. 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



Louise Ainsley
Manager, Ministerial Services