

20 July 2026

Paul White

Email: fyi-request-34965-fa066894@requests.fyi.org.nz

Our ref: OIA 133848

Tēnā koe Paul.

Official Information Act request: Daniel Becker

Thank you for your email of 25 June 2026 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding Daniel Becker.

Specifically, you requested:

- Was Daniel Becker employed by the Public Defence Service?, if so;
- What was his position and the period for which he was employed?
- Did his employment include being involved with criminal defendants, how many cases were involved and the outcome of these cases?
- Was his prior employment with the NZ Police as a criminal prosecutor?, if so;
- Was he required to inform defendants of this prior employment or if asked was he required to declare this information?

In response to your request:

Ministry employment records identify a person named Daniel Becker as having been employed by the Public Defence Service. Those records indicate that:

- Daniel Becker was employed by the Public Defence Service from 2 July 2018 until 28 June 2019.
- His position was Junior Lawyer (PAL1).
- His employment ended following his resignation.

As a Junior Lawyer employed by the Public Defence Service, his role involved criminal defence work and the provision of legal representation to criminal defendants.

Information regarding the number of matters worked on by Mr Becker and the outcomes of those matters is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Information regarding Mr Becker's employment history before joining the Public Defence Service is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Public Defence Service lawyers are required to comply with the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006, the Lawyers and Conveyancers (Lawyers: Conduct and Client Care) Rules 2008, the PDS Code of Conduct for Lawyers, the PDS Conflicts of Interest Policy, and the Ministry

of Justice Code of Conduct. The Ministry of Justice Code of Conduct applies to all PDS employees, including PDS lawyers.

These obligations require PDS lawyers to act independently, protect client confidentiality, avoid and appropriately manage conflicts of interest, and act in the best interests of their clients while complying with their duties to the Court. The PDS Code of Conduct requires lawyers to keep all information about a client confidential and provides that lawyers must not act where a conflict of interest or significant risk of conflict arises.

The PDS Conflicts of Interest Policy requires lawyers to identify, assess and manage actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest. The policy requires conflict checks to be undertaken, confidential information to be protected, and where necessary information barriers to be established, clients to be advised of relevant conflicts, matters to be referred to the PDS Ethics Committee, or cases to be reassigned.

The Lawyers and Conveyancers (Lawyers: Conduct and Client Care) Rules 2008 require lawyers to protect and hold in strict confidence all information concerning a client and to appropriately manage conflicts of interest. These obligations are reflected in both the PDS Code of Conduct and the PDS Conflicts of Interest Policy.

Whether a lawyer is required to disclose a prior employment relationship depends on the circumstances of the particular matter and whether that relationship gives rise to an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest requiring management under the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006, the Lawyers and Conveyancers (Lawyers: Conduct and Client Care) Rules 2008, and applicable PDS policies.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Peter Hutchinson
Director, Public Defence Service