

4 June 2024

File Ref: OIA 48643



Tēnā koe 

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information request dated 8 May 2024. Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your questions and our responses are as follows:

“Copies of all ELT minutes since 1 November 2023 regarding staff cuts or reductions to the Ministry of Māori Development-Te Puni Kōkiri and the impact of these cuts or reductions.”

Three documents have been identified as in scope of this part of your request (see Appendix A). These documents are withheld in full in accordance with the Act on the following grounds:

- Section 9(2)(g)(i), which applies to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.
- Section 9(2)(g)(ii), which provides the protection of members, officers, employees, and persons from improper pressure or harassment.

In making the decision to withhold information, we have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. As no final decisions have been made on our proposal for change, we believe that releasing information at this stage may result in unfair/unjustified public scrutiny on the individuals and decision makers involved in the process.

“Copies of all correspondence sent by tier 2 or tier 3 leaders since 1 November 2023 regarding staff cuts or reductions to the Ministry of Māori Development-Te Puni Kōkiri and the impact of these cuts or reductions.”

We have interpreted this part of your request to mean correspondence sent by tier 2 or tier 3 leaders to all staff since 1 November 2023, regarding staff cuts or reductions.

No correspondence has been sent by tier 2 and 3 leaders to all staff since 1 November 2023. Accordingly, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

All correspondence from leaders regarding staff cuts or reductions have come from Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Puni Kōkiri | Secretary for Māori Development, Dave Samuels.

We have previously released information regarding these communications, which are proactively released on our Te Puni Kōkiri website. You can find these by searching for 48102 and 48109 at the below link.

<https://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/mo-te-puni-kokiri/corporate-documents/official-information-act>

“Copies of all memos, briefings, or any other documents provided to ELT since 1 November 2023 regarding staff cuts or reductions to the Ministry of Māori Development-Te Puni Kōkiri and the impact of these cuts or reductions.”

No information has been found in scope of this part of your request and accordingly, is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

I trust my response satisfies your request.

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

As mentioned previously, Te Puni Kōkiri releases some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at oia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Manaia King', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Manaia King
Hautū, Te Puni Tautoko Whakahaere | Deputy Secretary, Organisational Support

Appendix A – documents OIA request from [REDACTED] dated 8 May 2024

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1.	12 Dec 2023	Executive Leadership Team weekly Board Meeting Minutes	Withheld in full under sections 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(g)(ii).
2.	9 April 2024	Executive Leadership Team weekly Board Meeting Minutes (and attachment – change proposal document)	Withheld in full under sections 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(g)(ii).
3.	23 April 2024	Executive Leadership Team weekly Board Meeting Minutes (and attachment – change proposal document)	Withheld in full under sections 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(g)(ii).