



20 February 2024

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Ref: OIA OIA-2023/24-0504

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act request: [REDACTED] Shares and conflicts of interest**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 6 February 2024. You requested:

[REDACTED]. I am requesting under the official information act the following:

1. What are the potential conflicts of interest that each Minister has informed the cabinet office of since the new coalition government was formed in late November?
2. What are the shares that each Minister has informed the cabinet office of since the new coalition government was formed in late November?
3. What are the shares that each Minister was told to sell by the cabinet office since the new coalition government was formed in late November?
4. Can the documents/emails/text messages between Ministers and the office relating to questions 1-3 above also be attached?""

Ministers are responsible for identifying and reviewing possible conflicts of interest and ensuring they are addressed promptly. The Cabinet Office, on behalf of the Prime Minister, supports Ministers in identifying and managing conflicts of interest that may arise in relation to their ministerial responsibilities.

Successive Ombudsmen have long held the view that Cabinet Office advice to Ministers is inherently confidential. It is in the public interest that the Cabinet Office can obtain and assess information about conflicts of interest and provide advice to Ministers on how to resolve them. Ministers are encouraged to seek advice from the Secretary of Cabinet on a confidential basis. Details regarding conflicts of interest are not generally disclosed, in order to ensure the confidentiality of Cabinet proceedings, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs and in some cases to protect personal privacy.

4850898

CABINET OFFICE, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, WELLINGTON 6011, NEW ZEALAND

Telephone: +64 (4) 830 5010. Email: CabinetOffice@dpmc.govt.nz

www.dpmc.govt.nz

The Cabinet Office holds material that falls within scope of your request. I am however withholding this information under the following sections of the Act:

- section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of natural persons;
- section 9(2)(ba)(ii), to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would damage the public interest;
- section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials; and
- section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers or officials in the course of their duty.

Information about certain financial and other interests of MPs (including Ministers) is published on an annual basis in the Register of Pecuniary and Other Specified Interests of Members of Parliament, available at: [Members' financial interests - New Zealand Parliament \(www.parliament.nz\)](http://www.parliament.nz).

In addition, every year the Cabinet Office proactively releases some information about the management of ministerial conflicts in accordance with an agreement with the Office of the Ombudsman. This information covers transfers of responsibility and arrangements not to receive papers. These annual releases are published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website at: [Annual Ministers' interests releases | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](http://www.dpmc.govt.nz).

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to override the reasons for withholding that information.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet's website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Rachel Hayward  
**Secretary of the Cabinet**