



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

6 November 2023

Tēnā koe

On 27 October 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Has the agency or any staff received external or internal instruction, direction or guidance, written or oral, to prepare, develop, review or edit briefings to incoming ministers with a view to removing the use of the word 'Aotearoa' or other te Reo Māori?*
- *If so, what was the instruction received (either copies of meeting minutes/emails/other document or via a summary of the memory of staff involved in the discussion(s)).*

No such instruction has been received by the Ministry. As such, your request is refused in full under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

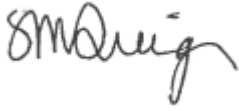
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding instruction received by the Ministry about the briefings to Ministers, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Quigan', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Quigan  
**Manager**  
**Official Information Team**