



1 December 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 5 November 2025 requesting all information relating to policy work around prohibiting homeless people from staying in particular public areas.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

As you have specifically requested that this request is not transferred between agencies, this response only relates to the information held by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry).

Please find my decision on each part of your request set out below.

- *Copies of all briefings, reports, aide-mémoire, presentations, internal or inter-agency advice, Cabinet or Ministerial papers, talking points, email communications, or any other documents (including drafts or attachments) that provide information or advice to Ministers, Ministerial offices, senior officials, or other public sector agencies about any proposals, options, or policy work relating to making it illegal, restricted, or otherwise prohibited for homeless people (or people without fixed accommodation) to live, sleep, or stay in particular public areas or localities (for example, central business districts or similar places).*
- *This request also includes copies of all briefings, notes, emails, reports and other papers discussing the potential ramifications or consequences of any such legislation or proposals, including analysis of how such measures might be enforced by Police or other agencies, and the potential social, legal, or human rights impacts of such laws or policies.*
- *This request covers the period from 1 August 2024 to the date of this request, and includes (but is not limited to) any material:*
 - *considering, commenting on, or analysing the potential for legislation, regulatory changes, or local government bylaws with similar intent or effect;*
 - *relating to enforcement, compliance, policing, or legal frameworks connected to such restrictions;*

- *addressing human rights, social policy, housing, or justice implications of such measures;*
- *exchanged between your agency and other departments, local authorities, or Ministers' offices on this subject.*
- *Please include material regardless of whether the proposal proceeded, was rejected, or was only discussed informally or conceptually.*

As you will be aware, the Ministry of Justice is the lead agency for work relating to addressing anti-social behaviour. The Government has a Quarter 4 Target to take to Cabinet policy decisions on options to provide more tools to address anti-social behaviour.

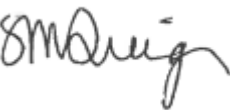
The Ministry has identified six email chains and two excerpts from meeting notes in scope of your request. This information is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services