



Scan for
NZSL name




Visual description: A purple Whaikaha logo with a QR scan for the NZSL name.

OIA0933



11 February 2026

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 26 January 2026 (and clarified on 30 January 2026), to the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha (Whaikaha), requesting the following information in relation to waiata and karakia groups/practices:

- The total number of meetings, discussions, or briefings held by the Chief Executive (or their office) since 1 January 2024 relating to waiata and karakia groups, practices, or proposed changes to the frequency of sessions.**
- Copies of any agendas, minutes, notes, or summaries from these meetings.**
- Any correspondence (including emails and messages) between senior leadership and the Public Service Association (PSA) regarding groups or proposed changes to how or when they operate.**
- Internal communications/reports/advice to or from the CE regarding participation/work place time allocation/cultural engagement policies in relation to waiata/karakia groups/sessions**
- Any decisions, policies, or guidance issued about waiata group operations, including any review or proposed limitation of sessions.**

A member of staff (our Cultural Advisor – Pou Ārahi) offers weekly karakia sessions on a Wednesday at 8.30am for 30 minutes. Attendance is optional. There has been no change to this scheduling, nor advice given or received about these sessions by or to the Chief Executive in the time period requested. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

Please note, as part of its commitment towards increasing transparency, Whaikaha intends to make the information contained in this letter, and any attached documents, available to the wider public. Whaikaha will do this by publishing this letter on our



website. Your personal details will be deleted, and no information that would identify you as the requestor will be released.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, or if you are seeking any further information, please contact OIA_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'EMW', with a horizontal line underneath.

Emma Williams
Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services