



Scan for
NZSL name




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

OIA0303



19 May 2025

Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 3 May 2025, to the Ministry of Disabled People - Whaikaha (Whaikaha), requesting the following information:

- **Whaikaha correspondence regarding the impact of the Plain Language Act repeal on disabled persons. In particular, I am requesting correspondence between Whaikaha and:**
 - **staff of both the Public Service Commission**
 - **Minister Collins' office**
 - **Minister Willis' office**
 - **As well as internal Whaikaha correspondence.**
- **Correspondence in this case should be taken to mean (but not limited to) meeting minutes, emails, text messages, teams messages, aides-mémoires, briefings, memos, notes, reports, or any other advice.**

Whaikaha was not consulted on the proposal to repeal the Plain Language Act, however we did reach out to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to learn more about PSC's analysis, and to highlight the fact that disabled people may have concerns about the repeal.

While some of these conversations happened over the phone and no records exist, enclosed is the documentation we have identified as in scope of your request.

In Appendix 1 you will find copies of correspondence between Whaikaha and the Public Service Commission regarding the Plain Language Act repeal and impacts on disabled people.

In Appendix 2 you will find an excerpt from Talking Points drafted for the Whaikaha Chief Executive ahead of a meeting with the Disabled People's Organisations Coalition in May 2025.

Please note, some information has been withheld from these documents under the following sections of the OIA:



- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

An email containing an earlier draft of the contents in Appendix 2 is withheld in full under 9(2)(g)(i).

I can confirm there has been no communication between Whaikaha and Hon Collins' office or Hon Willis' office on this topic.

Whaikaha is committed to ensuring the public sector is accessible for everyone and inclusive of disabled people. Part of our work programme will include a refresh and strengthening of the Accessibility Charter (which documents the Chief Executives' commitment to delivering on Article 9 – Accessibility of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities), stabilising and strengthening the Alternate Formats service, and scoping effective ways to improve the provision of disability information and advice.

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

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 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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Emma Williams', with a horizontal line underneath.


Emma Williams
Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix 1


From: [Margaret Mabbett](#)
To: [Amber Coyle](#); [Callum Butler](#)
Cc: [Jasmine Lindsay](#)
Subject: RE: Plain language repeal
Date: Thursday, 3 April 2025 9:29:18 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Kia ora Amber, Callum has been doing the work on the repeal (and did the Act as well) so passing you on to him.
Noho ora mai
Margaret

My working days are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Margaret Mabbett *(she/her)*
Kaitātari Mātāmua | Principal Analyst
Policy, Machinery of Government
Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy and Integrity Group
waea pūkoro: s9(2)(a) | **īmēra:** margaret.mabbett@publicservice.govt.nz



Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission
www.publicservice.govt.nz | www.govt.nz



From: Amber Coyle <s9(2)(a)@whaikaha.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 2 April 2025 11:21 am
To: Margaret Mabbett <Margaret.Mabbett@publicservice.govt.nz>
Cc: Jasmine Lindsay <s9(2)(a)@whaikaha.govt.nz>
Subject: Plain language repeal

This email was sent from someone outside of Te Kawa Mataaho. Please take extra care.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Margaret

We just saw the Plain Language Act is being repealed, but I don't think we were consulted on the proposals. Do you think you could put us in touch with the team advising on this? I'd be interested to understand any analysis undertaken on benefits of a legislative approach vs the costs, and any other options – particularly consideration of impacts on disabled people who are more likely to benefit from use of plain language.

Ngā mihi
Amber

Amber Coyle ([she/her](#))

Principal Policy Analyst, Policy
Policy and Insights

Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People

s9(2)(a) | [Whaikaha.govt.nz](https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz)



[Purple GIF image of the logo and email signature banner of the Ministry]

**Me he aka rātā ka tipu tahi, ka puāwai tahi kia tū kaha i ngā hihi ō
Tamanuiterā.**

Like the rātā vines growing together and flourishing to stand strong in the
warmth of the sun.

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attachments. Any views expressed in this email may be those of the individual sender
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Confidentiality notice: This email may be confidential or legally privileged. If you have received it by mistake,
please tell the sender immediately by reply, remove this email and the reply from your system, and don't act on it
in any other way. Ngā mihi.

Except from Chief Executive's Talking Points for Disabled People's Organisations Coalition meeting on 8 May

What are your views on the proposed repeal of the Plain Language Act?

- I understand there are concerns in the community about this.
- The repeal of the Plain Language Act will provide the opportunity to consider whether the Act fulfils its purpose. The repeal of the Act is not necessarily a step back from the need for public information to be accessible to all New Zealanders – the proposed repeal questions whether the Act was effective and/or necessary in achieving its purpose.
- We have provided feedback on the concerns disabled people may have about the repeal of the Plain Language Act and that the increasing use of alternate formats for important public facing information will be helpful for disabled people.
- Whaikaha will still work with other agencies to ensure that public information is accessible for disabled people and the need to ensure information to be available through Alt Formats are “born accessible”.
- The refresh of the Accessibility Charter, which is on our work programme, will be helpful in gaining a commitment from across the public service to accessible information.

s9(2)(g)(i)

A large rectangular area of the document is redacted with a solid grey fill. It covers approximately four lines of text, starting from the line containing 's9(2)(g)(i)' and extending to the right edge of the page.