



Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commission

14 March 2024

9(2)(a) privacy

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Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2023-0328

I refer to your official information request received on 18 January 2024 for:

"I am undertaking some research on the government formation process under MMP, and would like to request, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. For each general election from 1996 to 2023, whether information was requested from the public sector during the government formation period by the negotiating parties;*
- 2. Copies of those requests; and*
- 3. Copies of the information provided in each instance.*

I understand that such requests for access to information from the public sector during the government formation period are made to the Public Service Commissioner in the first instance".

We notified you on 11 February 2024 that due to the large quantity of information we needed to search through to make our decision on your request, we extended the timeframe to make our decision to 15 March 2024.

Information not held

Following receipt of your request, we requested and reviewed nine boxes of files held in our archived records for the period 1996 – 2016. For the years 1997 – 2016 we were unable to find any documents relating to information requested from the public sector during the government formation periods. Therefore, we are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) that despite reasonable efforts to locate the information, it cannot be found.

Information publicly available

Please find outlined in the table below, information requested from the public sector during the government formation period by the negotiating parties during 1996-2023, specifically 1996, 2017 and 2023. Following our discussions on 6 March 2024, due to the size of the documents, we identified that it would be easier to publish the material online for you to access it that way, instead of having to send multiple PDF files.

The information is publicly available on Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission and the National Library websites at the links provided for in the table below. Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents under section 18(d) of the OIA on the grounds that the information requested is publicly available.

Election Year	Document Description	Website Address
1996	Government Formation Information	Part 1 https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoyFile/1996-Government-Formation-Part-1-of-4.pdf Part 2 https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoyFile/1996-Government-Formation-Part-2-of-4.pdf Part 3 https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoyFile/1996-Government-Formation-Part-3-of-4.pdf Part 4 https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoyFile/1996-Government-Formation-Part-4-of-4.pdf
2017	Government Formation Information	https://ndhadeliver.natlib.govt.nz/webarchive/20180816182614/http://www.ssc.govt.nz/government-formation-information
2023	Government Formation Information	https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/assets/DirectoyFile/Negotiations-to-form-a-government.pdf

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact Ministerial.Services@publicservice.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks
Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission