



22 August 2025

s 9(2)(a)

Official information request

Our ref: R001154

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request by the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) received on 25 July 2025. We have itemised by number, the parts of your request for ease of reference. You requested:

Please provide a copy of the following information:

1. *The document, message or record (including meeting notes if any) in which the Minister instructed the Ministry to narrow consultation principle from “substantially affected” to “directly and materially affected” as noted in an email of 5 March 2025 from Laura Fair to Paula Rawiri and others.*
2. *A copy of the briefing provided to the Minister on the Regulatory Standards Bill on 21 February 2025 as identified in an email of that date from Elisa Eckford to Clare Sinnott and others.*
3. *A copy of the briefing provided to the Minister on the Regulatory Standards Bill on 24 February 2025 as identified in an email of that date from Laura Fair to Elisa Eckford and others.*
4. *A copy of any notes, transcript minutes or other record of the meeting that took place on or about 330 PM on 26 February 2025 referred to in an email from Laura Fair to Paula Rawiri on that date.*

On item 1

A record of the decision by the Minister for Regulation (Minister) to narrow the wording of the consultation principle was via an email from the Minister's Private Secretary (Regulation) to Ministry officials, dated 5 March 2025:

“Finally, there is a direction to narrow the wording of Principle (i) - (i) that the minister responsible considers will be directly and materially affected by the legislation. The same would apply to (iii) for secondary leg.”

On items 2 and 3

Copies of the briefings provided to the Minister about the Regulatory Standards Bill, dated 21 February 2025 and 24 February 2025, have been proactively released on the *Publications and*

resources page of the Ministry's website. Accordingly, I have refused this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA as the information is publicly available.

Requestor's description	Date	Document
<i>briefing to the Minister on the Regulatory Standards Bill on 21 February 2025</i>	21/02/2025	<i>MFR2025-026: Regulatory Standards Bill: Initial findings from public consultation</i> ¹
<i>briefing to the Minister on the Regulatory Standards Bill on 24 February 2025</i>	24/02/2025	<i>MFR2025-042: Regulatory Standards Bill: Options for next steps following public consultation</i> ²

Some information in the proactively released documents has been redacted under the following section of the OIA:

- section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons, and
- section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.

I have considered the grounds under which information has been redacted in the proactively released documents which you have requested, and I consider they continue to apply in the same ways under this request. I therefore withhold the same parts of these documents, under the same grounds as listed in the published versions. As required by section 9(1) of the OIA, I do not believe any public interest reasons for releasing the information outweigh the reasons for withholding the information.

On item 4

The meeting to which you have referred, scheduled on 26 February 2025, was subsequently cancelled and not rescheduled. As a result, there are no notes or minutes from the meeting.

Accordingly, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA as the information you have requested does not exist.

Section 18B of the OIA sets an expectation on agencies to consider consulting with the requestor before refusing a request under section 18(e). We have considered the duty to consult; However, consulting you would not change our response because the meeting did not take place and therefore we do not hold any notes or minutes associated with it.

Right of review

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please contact hello@regulation.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.

¹ <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/mfr2025-026-regulatory-standards-bill-initial-findings-from-public-consultation/>

² <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/about-us/our-publications/mfr2025-042-regulatory-standards-bill-options-for-next-steps-following-public-consultation/>

Please note that we may publish this response (with your details removed) on the Ministry for Regulation website.

Ngā mihi

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Aisling Risdon
Head of Ministerial Services
Ministry for Regulation