



5 April 2026

S 9(2)(a)

Official information request

Our ref: R001432

Tēnā koe^S₉₍₂₎

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request by the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) received on 7 April 2026. Your information request is detailed as **Annex A**.

The Ministry utilises Microsoft 365 as its core productivity and email platform through its supplier, Liquid IT, for its core productivity and email platform, with these services delivered as managed services under a single contract. This arrangement is an All-of-Government contract and uses the standard Subscription Form for Consultancy and Professional Services and/or Managed Services. In relation to data residency, the Ministry's Microsoft Fabric data platform is deployed in the New Zealand North region to meet New Zealand government data geofencing requirements.

The Ministry's internal requirements relating to data residency and data sovereignty for its productivity platform and cloud infrastructure are reflected in its All-of-Government contractual arrangements and deployment decisions. These include the use of New Zealand-based regions to meet government data geofencing requirements. The table below sets out how these requirements apply across the relevant services and platform functions.

Data residency of the functions of the Microsoft Fabric data platform

Function	Sub-Function	Date Residency
3. Landing Zone Infrastructure	3.1 Virtual Network	New Zealand North
3. Landing Zone Infrastructure	3.5 Network Watcher	New Zealand North
4. Security Infrastructure	4.1 Key Vault	New Zealand North
4. Security Infrastructure	4.2 Log Analytics Workspace	New Zealand North
4. Security Infrastructure	4.3 Diagnostic Storage Account	New Zealand North
5. Data Platform Infrastructure	5.1 SQL Server	New Zealand North
5. Data Platform Infrastructure	5.3 Data Platform Storage Account	New Zealand North
5. Data Platform Infrastructure	5.4 Virtual Network Data Gateway	New Zealand North

Function	Sub-Function	Date Residency
5. Data Platform Infrastructure	5.5 Microsoft Fabric Capacity	New Zealand North
N/A: Appendix	N/A: APPENDIX NOTES 11.1 Region Decision Infrastructure is deployed in New Zealand North region to accommodate geofencing requirements from New Zealand government data sources. This ensures notebooks executed in Microsoft Fabric can access geofenced APIs without IP-based restrictions.	New Zealand North

The Ministry utilises a single provider, LiquidIT (the supplier), for its cloud infrastructure and storage, including its ICT infrastructure, hardware, and software. These services are delivered as Managed Services under a single contract.

The Ministry also uses AI-enabled tools as part of its core productivity and email platform managed service. This includes Microsoft 365 Copilot, provided by Microsoft, which supports productivity functions within Microsoft 365 applications, and Adobe AI Assistant, provided by Adobe, which supports document-related functions within Adobe products.

Information publicly available

The Ministry's internal policy governing the use of artificial intelligence includes specific reference to data sovereignty. This policy is available on the Ministry for Regulation website: <https://www.regulation.govt.nz/assets/Publication-Documents/20251114-OIA-Response-Approved-AI-tools-use-policies-and-risk-assessments-R001321.pdf>.

Information withheld

Release of the contracts relating to the Ministry's digital tools, storage, and infrastructure would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of those suppliers. Accordingly, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982.

Assessments relating to these digital tools contain sensitive information about security measures and possible weaknesses. Release of this information could make the Ministry's systems vulnerable to attack. I have decided to withhold this information under section 9(2)(k) of the Official Information Act 1982, to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or advantage.

As required by section 9(1) of the OIA, I have considered whether the grounds for withholding the information requested is outweighed by the public interest. In this instance, I do not consider that to be the case.

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.

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

Ngā mihi

S 9(2)(a)



Aisling Risdon

Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services
Ministry for Regulation

Annex A: Your information request

1. Core Productivity and Email Platform

- Any contract, licence agreement, or service agreement between your agency and a provider of productivity or email software (e.g. Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, or other), including any schedules specifying term dates
- If procured through an AoG arrangement, any agency-level order form, call-off agreement, or accession document relating to that arrangement
- Any internal documents specifying data residency or data sovereignty requirements in connection with your productivity platform

2. Cloud Infrastructure and Storage

- Any contract, licence agreement, or service agreement between your agency and a cloud infrastructure or storage provider (e.g. Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure, Google Cloud), including any schedules specifying term dates
- Any security assessment, risk assessment, or privacy impact assessment produced in connection with the use of any cloud infrastructure provider
- Any internal documents specifying data residency or data sovereignty requirements in connection with cloud infrastructure

3. AI Tools and Internal AI Policy

- Any contract, licence agreement, or service agreement between your agency and a provider of AI tools or services (e.g. Microsoft Copilot, any OpenAI-based product, Google Gemini, or similar), including the provider name, general purpose, and any schedules specifying term dates
- Any internal policy, guideline, or usage framework document relating to the use of AI tools by your agency's staff, including any approved or preferred provider lists
- Any risk assessment, privacy impact assessment, or security assessment produced in connection with the adoption or use of AI tools at your agency

Where any document is too large for full release, I would accept a summary, index, or schedule of the relevant documents so that I can make more targeted follow-up requests. I am happy to receive information electronically. I do not require material already publicly available, provided a URL or reference is supplied.