



16 July 2026

s 9(2)(a)

Official information request

Our ref: R001532

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request to the Ministry for Regulation (Ministry) received on 17 June 2026. You requested:

Since 23 November 2023:

1. *How many working groups, advisory groups, reference groups, expert panels, stakeholder groups, or similar bodies administered by your agency have required participants to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), confidentiality agreement, or confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation?*
2. *Please provide the figure for each of:*
 - *23 November 2023 to 31 December 2023*
 - *2024*
 - *2025*
 - *2026 to date*
3. *Please provide any current policy, guidance, or criteria governing when such agreements may be required.*

Please send the information electronically in a fully searchable format.

I have decided to partially grant your request.

There are four groups in total administered by the Ministry that have required all members external to the Ministry to agree to a confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation or to sign a confidentiality agreement. These groups are:

1. Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review Sector Reference Group
2. External Advisory Group
3. Policy Quality Panel
4. Risk and Assurance Committee.

The Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review Sector Reference Group was established in 2024, while the External Advisory Group, Policy Quality Panel, and Risk and Assurance Committee were established in 2025.

A table showing the number of groups and the year these groups or external members of these groups signed or agreed to a confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation is listed below.

The Ministry considers the need to use any of the above-mentioned agreements on a case-by-case basis. There is no policy, guidance, or criteria governing when such agreements are required. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information does not exist.

Table 1. *Groups with confidentiality agreements or undertakings by year agreed or signed*

Year signed or agreed	Number of groups
23 November 2023 – 31 December 2023	N/A
2024	1
2025	3
2026 to date	0

Regulatory Standards Board

We do not consider the Regulatory Standards Board (RSB) to fall within the types of groups identified in your request as it is an independent statutory body. Accordingly, we have not included it in the list above. However, for completeness, we note that members of the RSB are subject to the use of information obligations set out in Schedule 3, clause 14 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025¹.

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

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2025/68/en/latest/#LMS1029071>