

OIA-CE-2024-02695

16 December 2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 18 November 2024, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on Oranga Tamariki policies on confidentiality. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Can I please have a copy of your policy regarding confidentiality.

I have interpreted your request for “a copy of your policy regarding confidentiality” as referring to any policies Oranga Tamariki have that relate to confidentiality in the context of Reports of Concern, as I note you previously corresponded with us on this matter.

Oranga Tamariki do not have a Policy specifically regarding confidentiality relating to Reports of Concern.

However, we carefully consider when information should be shared, accounting for children’s safety and wellbeing, and our responsibilities to protect people’s personal information. We take great care to adhere to legal requirements around information sharing and privacy, including the privacy principles set out in the Privacy Act, which can be found [here](#), and the information sharing provisions set out in other relevant legislation, such as sections 66 and 66c of the Oranga Tamariki Act, which can be found [here](#).

Further, principle 7 of the Social Workers Registration Board Code of Conduct sets out standards to “respect the client’s privacy and confidentiality”. All Oranga Tamariki staff must complete mandatory and on-going privacy training and must report any suspected privacy breaches to the Oranga Tamariki privacy team.

The Oranga Tamariki Chief Social Worker has recently released a Practice Note around privacy responsibilities which you may find informative. You can view the Practice Note [here](#).

IN-CONFIDENCE

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Michelle Malyon

General Manager Public Information and Ministerial Services
System Leadership