

OIA-CE-2025-02805

3 April 2025

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email, received on 23 January 2025, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on communications sent and received by the Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive outside of standard working hours. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On 21 February 2025, we advised that the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request were such that a response could not be provided within the original time limit. For that reason, we extended the due date to Friday 21 March 2025, under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act. We apologise for the delay in responding.

You have requested:

In the month of July 2024

- *how many phone calls/txts/emails did your ceo/head of agency send/receive after 6pm (please break down by sent/received)*
- *how many of those were sent/received after 10pm*
- *how many days during this month did they respond to a message after 6pm*
- *how many txts/emails/phone calls did they make on a Saturday or Sunday*

I don't need copies of the communications, but note I am only interested in work related communications.

If someone was acting in the role at any point over the period, please count their communications over the period of cover too.

If you do not hold phone data for this period (July 2024) you can choose another month, but I will then need an explanation of why you have not retained July information.

Please note that we are unable to provide a response for the month of July 2024. Chappie Te Kani, Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki, is currently on extended medical leave and we are unable to access his phone to collate the requested

information. We have instead considered providing information for the month of November 2024, as Andrew Bridgman was acting Chief Executive for Oranga Tamariki at the time and remains in that role at this point in time.

An email search was undertaken to identify correspondence in scope of your request and returned over 1200 results that may or may not have been in scope of your request. Collating and assessing these emails to provide the summary numbers requested would be significantly impactful on the core operations of Oranga Tamariki.

Similarly, and as noted above, we considered collating Acting Chief Executive Andrew Bridgman's phone data for the month of November 2024. However, doing so could not be done without physically taking Mr Bridgman's phone and manually collating the requested information, which would be significantly impactful on the core operations of Oranga Tamariki. In addition, we are also unable to confirm which phone records relate to work activity, versus phone records related to personal matters.

As such, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

In considering this response, we note that there is no obligation under the Act for an agency to create information to respond to a request; the focus is on making available information already held, not creating new information. Collating email and phone data as mentioned above would constitute the creation of new information as it is not currently collected in this form.

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



Jane Fletcher
General Manager Office of the Chief Executive