

22 April 2025

s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, received on 1 April 2025, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on the current Oranga Tamariki process for interviews between children and social workers. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Your request is:

*One matter that is unique that [REDACTED] would like addressed is her wish to understand the current process undertaken by Oranga Tamariki to ensure that children in care have regular interviews with their social workers. s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]*

While your request specifies interviews, we have interpreted that more broadly as much of the engagement between a social worker and tamariki or rangatahi in care doesn't take the format of an interview. The current Oranga Tamariki policy and practice guidance for social workers when visiting a child in care or custody can be found on our Practise Centre website at the following links:

[Visiting and engaging with tamariki and rangatahi in care | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

[Visits with tamariki and rangatahi in care or custody | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

Under the policy, kaimahi are expected to visit children in care or custody regularly, to engage face to face and alone when possible, and to discuss with te tamaiti or rangatahi what is going well for them, what is important to them, and any concerns or worries they may have. The Practice Centre also provides Practice Framework prompts for kaimahi to use to ensure that they are upholding the rights of tamariki and rangatahi they work with and supporting them to share their views and be involved in decision making.

Practice standards are the benchmark for Oranga Tamariki social work practice and apply across the full spectrum of social work from initial assessment to exit from care.

## IN-CONFIDENCE

The 'See and engage tamariki' and 'Ensuring safety and wellbeing' practice standards set out the expectations for quality practice in these two areas. More information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

The frequency that we visit te tamaiti or rangatahi must be based on their individually assessed need. The frequency, as well as the rationale for that frequency, must be determined in consultation with te tamaiti or rangatahi, the caregiver and the caregiver social worker; as well as agreed by a supervisor and the approval recorded in the supervision phase casenotes. The frequency of visits also needs to be recorded in the All About Me plan for te tamaiti or rangatahi and the social worker must regularly review the frequency of visits as appropriate and when there has been a change in the circumstances or needs of te tamaiti. More information about the expectations on frequency of visits with tamariki can be found [here](#).

Oranga Tamariki also has guidance for kaimahi on visiting and engaging with tamariki (who may not be in care) which can be found [here](#). This guidance sets out that kaimahi should check with te tamaiti where they would prefer to meet for a face-to-face meeting and check whether they are feeling safe before and during the visit. This guidance also sets out that kaimahi should talk to and get to know te tamaiti on their own, away from adults and other tamariki in their lives.

Specialist child interviews are conducted as part of our mahi when te tamaiti or rangatahi may have been the victim of abuse or witnessed an incident that may constitute a criminal offence. Only te tamaiti or rangatahi and the specialist child interviewer are in the interview room during the interview, unless there are specific requirements (e.g. a support person or interpreter is required). This enables te tamaiti or rangatahi to give their information in their own words, in a way that is most suitable to their needs and that makes sure that the information can be used as evidence in a court process (criminal or family) if necessary. More information regarding this guidance can also be found [here](#).

I trust you find this information useful and that it answers your request.

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. 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Kiri Alexander  
**General Manager Practice**  
**Chief Social Worker and Professional Practice**