

30 April 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your letter, received on 30 March 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on secure residences and youth justice programmes. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each part of your request below:

Standard practices in Oranga Tamariki's residential facilities aimed to promote (or that have the effect of promoting) community safety. We would like to be able to assess the relevance of these practices in Te Kāhu Tiu's setting.

Oranga Tamariki operates two types of secure residences: Youth Justice facilities, for rangatahi who have, or are suspected to have, committed offences, and Care and Protection facilities for tamariki and rangatahi who are at risk in their communities.

However, I note that the facility and programme Te Kāhu Tiu runs is not a secure residence. Therefore, the legal framework, regulations, practice and policies for our secure residences do not apply to Te Kāhu Tiu.

For your interest, I provide publicly available information about residences including some of our health, safety and security measures, on the Oranga Tamariki Practice Centre website, [here](#).

Oranga Tamariki's learning from the Tangarakau murder. We are seeking to understand how Oranga Tamariki has taken that experience into policies and practices applicable to programmes such as Te Kāhu Tiu.

Following the tragic incident in Tāngarākau in 2022, Oranga Tamariki conducted a debrief process. I can confirm that we have taken lessons learned from that event into consideration in how we work with youth justice focused programmes that we are referring rangatahi to. The key learning was about the referrals process itself. In the case of Te Kāhu Tiu, Oranga Tamariki kaimahi are actively involved in the shortlisting process to identify suitable, or unsuitable, rangatahi, with a panel including an Oranga Tamariki Practice Leader and a Psychologist.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Oranga Tamariki's standard criteria for assessing the suitability of sites proposed for new programmes irrespective of their origin – e.g. private initiative as in Te Kāhu Tiu's case or initiated by others including government agencies

Oranga Tamariki does not assess the suitability of sites run by external providers such as Te Kāhu Tiu, as this is outside our remit. In this case, as you are aware, the organisation has worked with the local council on the consents process.

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. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. 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



Dean Winter
Deputy Chief Executive
Youth Justice and Residential Care Services