

5 June 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 6 May 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) regarding further questions in response to our response of 30 April 2026.

s9(2)(a)

However, we have considered the following parts of your correspondence as a request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Learnings from Tangarakau: Your reply on this matter notes that the key learning was about the rangatahi referral process. The request called for information on how learnings have been taken into OT's practices, so the response could/should have included info on selection improvements. What has changed -what is the before and after comparison? Further, learnings from practice lapses have not been mentioned, e.g. the failure of 1:1 overnight supervision. Did the experience trigger any steps to reinforce the need for safeguard observance?

After the Tāngarākau incident in 2022, Oranga Tamariki conducted a debrief process, which as I advised in my previous response to you resulted in a key learning regarding the referrals process itself. The Te Kāhu Tiu programme sees Oranga Tamariki kaimahi actively involved in the shortlisting process to identify suitable, or unsuitable, rangatahi, with a panel including an Oranga Tamariki Practice Leader and Psychologist.

The debrief process included information being provided by persons in confidence, and I am therefore withholding this information in full under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. This is because I consider the withholding of the information is necessary to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Assessing Site Suitability: Our request was for criteria for site assessment relating to new programmes irrespective of their origin. We were expecting Oranga Tamariki to provide material that supports consideration of the suitability of residential communities as locations for facilities comparable to Te Kahu Tiu. Your reply does not provide that information. You have noted that Te Kahu Tiu has worked with Kapiti Coast District Council on consenting issues. The Council declined to take safety/security into account, noting that they address only environmental issues (planning is under the Resource Management Act 1991 which is of course designed to deliver good environmental outcomes. In a 25 March 2025 email, the Council pointed to central government agencies as likely requiring measures aimed at security and safety. If Oranga Tamariki considers that safety/ security is for local government, it's clear that these matters have fallen between two stools. It would be helpful to receive your comments on these matters together with further information to fill the gaps.

As per my previous response, we do not assess the suitability of sites run by external providers, as this is outside our remit. Responding to this part of your request would constitute the creation of information in the form of formulating an opinion, which is not afforded for under the Act.

...whether OT's regular monitoring reports can be made available as they are prepared (letter dated 16 March)

No monitoring report has been undertaken as yet. Therefore, I am unable to provide advice at this stage as whether they could be "made available...as they are prepared". If you choose to make a further request for this information under the Act, your request will be re-assessed at that stage.

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 Services and Residential Care