OT-OIA-2026-0230

4 September 2026

s9(2)(a) [redacted]

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 27 July 2026, to Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information relating to a preliminary data – discovery request.

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We wrote to you on 4 August 2026 to clarify questions 2,3, 7 and 8. You responded the same day, and your refined requests have been answered below.

We are refusing some parts of your request under section 18(d) of the Act as details are already publicly available. Where this is the case, we have provided links to the publicly available information.

You have requested:

- *1.The names and brief descriptions of datasets, systems or standard reports used to record reports of concern, children or young people, families or whānau, alleged perpetrators, harm or abuse categories, assessment pathways, Police referrals, safety findings and case closure or no-further-action outcomes.*

Oranga Tamariki does not collect specific information or store data in a way you have requested – please see here for our intake decision response tool. This shows what is considered when making decisions around a report of concern (RoC) response pathway when we receive information, or concerns for tamariki or rangatahi, including those in care or custody, and the urgency of that response.

- *2.Please provide any existing current document, table, extract or guidance that identifies the category labels and definitions used for:*
  a. reports of concern involving alleged sexual abuse, sexual harm or the closest equivalent current category;
  b. source of notification or report;
  c. the immediate intake or response pathway, limited to:
  i. referral for assessment or further statutory action;

ii. referral to New Zealand Police;
iii. no further action, closure or the closest equivalent outcome; and
d. any structured category that expressly records that a report was knowingly false or fabricated, as distinct from being unsubstantiated, closed, withdrawn, unsupported or resulting in no further action.

The process used to identify category labels and definitions is not linear or easily retrieved. As such, we use variables when assessing a RoC. You can search the intake decision making tool (link above) for the variables considered when assessing a RoC.

- *3. Available counting units*
  Please confirm whether existing standard reporting can separately produce counts of:
  a. reports of concern or notifications;
  b. distinct children or young people;
  c. referrals to New Zealand Police; and
  d. alleged perpetrators or persons alleged to have caused harm.

Oranga Tamariki can produce some standard reporting around numbers of notifications and distinct children. We do not report on referrals to NZ Police or the count of alleged perpetrators or persons alleged to have caused harm as these details are stored on individual files. Please see here for the Oranga Tamariki Child Protection Protocol (CPP); here for statistics on how we work with children and here for how we record decision responses.

- *4.Confirmation of which of the following are structured fields rather than narrative text: source of notification; referral for assessment; referral to Police; assessment or safety finding; closure or no-further-action reason; child age; recorded gender or sex; ethnicity; region; relationship to alleged perpetrator; and institutional or family setting.*

Oranga Tamariki does not have a structured field or column for referrals made to the Police. However, we can obtain case note types for phases, specifically the case note type, CPP referrals. This case note type refers a case to the police when there is an alleged action or behaviour that constitutes a criminal offence specifically for physical abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect against a child or young person involved in a RoC. A few of your structured field requests in Q4 are duplicated in Q8. Please see our response to Q8 below for further information.

- *5.The earliest year from which the relevant fields are considered sufficiently complete and comparable, including any significant changes in terminology, practice framework, system or assessment pathway.*

Please note that the Client Young Person Adult Recording Information System (CYRAS) has been in use by Oranga Tamariki since 1999. There have been many

changes to the way Oranga Tamariki records information. To retrieve any historical information would require an extensive review of many technical systems and communications. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as this information cannot be provided without substantial collation or research.

- *6.Current suppression, confidentiality or minimum-count rules applied to published or released aggregate child-protection data.*

Under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, children's full names are automatically suppressed in all published documents; and when published statistics contain low numbers or disclose demographic information that may result in identification, the numbers are also suppressed under this section of the Act.

- *7.Existing aggregate reports*
  Please provide copies of, or exact links to, only the following existing material:
  a. the most recent existing aggregate report or table that includes reports of concern categorized as alleged sexual abuse, sexual harm or the closest equivalent category; and
  b. the most recent existing aggregate report or table that includes referral to Police, intake pathway or response-outcome information.
  If no standard aggregate report is held in either form, confirmation of that fact will be sufficient.
  I withdraw the request for broader internal report specifications and general data-quality notes under this item.

We do not hold this information in an easily retrievable format. To retrieve it would require an extensive manual check. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

- *8.Reporting feasibility*
  For each variable below, please identify only whether it is:
  A. a structured field available through standard reporting;
  B. a structured field that is not ordinarily available through standard reporting;
  C. primarily contained in narrative or free-text records;
  D. not held; or
  E. unable to be confirmed without manual review.

  The variables are:
  a. alleged sexual abuse or sexual harm category;
  b. source of notification;
  c. referral for assessment or further action;
  d. referral to New Zealand Police;
  e. assessment, safety or harm finding;
  f. closure or no-further-action outcome;

g. child or young person's age;
h. recorded gender or sex;
i. ethnicity;
j. region;
k. relationship to the alleged perpetrator or person alleged to have caused harm; and
l. institutional, family or whānau setting.

I can confirm that most of the variables listed above for both Q4 and Q8 are used as a structured field available through standard reporting, with the exception of:

a. alleged sexual abuse or sexual harm category;

This is primarily contained in narrative or free-text records.

d. referral to New Zealand Police; and
k. relationship to the alleged perpetrator or person alleged to have caused harm

These variables are not ordinarily available through standard reporting.

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



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