

15 July 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 17 June 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and other such confidentiality agreements. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Since 23 November 2023:

1. *How many working groups, advisory groups, reference groups, expert panels, stakeholder groups, or similar bodies administered by your agency have required participants to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), confidentiality agreement, or confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation?*
2. *Please provide the figure for each of:*
 - a. *23 November 2023 to 31 December 2023*
 - b. *2024*
 - c. *2025*
 - d. *2026 to date*
3. *Please provide any current policy, guidance, or criteria governing when such agreements may be required.*

For the sake of ease, all groups that have been identified in scope of your request will be referred to as “working groups” in this letter.

Oranga Tamariki does not hold information on NDAs or other such confidentiality agreements centrally. Rather, any such agreements are held by the individual business units responsible for the associated working groups. As such, I am unable to guarantee that the information provided below will comprehensively cover all items in scope. I have endeavoured to provide as much information as possible.

A total of twelve working groups (or categories of working group) have been identified in scope of your request, and have been listed below along with the function of Oranga

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Tamariki within which they operate. Please note that, for the majority of these groups, participants were not required to sign specific confidentiality documents or NDAs, but rather their letters of appointment (LoA) or Terms of Reference (ToR) included a clause that addresses confidentiality. This has been detailed for each group below.

Two groups identified in scope of your request operate within the Youth Justice Services and Residential Care function.

- The Youth Justice Services and Residential Care Independent Advisory Board was established in March 2025 and had the same members throughout its active period. The ToR for this Board include a confidentiality clause.
- The Military-Style Academy Pilot External Reference Group ran from May 2024 to March 2025. As above, no specific NDA document exists, but a confidentiality clause is included in the LoAs.

Four groups identified in scope of your request operate within the Enabling Communities function.

- The Disability Advisory Group has operated throughout the entire timeframe you have requested and continues to operate. All members who served on the Disability Advisory Group within these dates have signed letters of appointment that included a confidentiality clause. A similar confidentiality clause is also written within their ToR for the calendar years you have requested.
- The Pacific Advisory Group has also operated throughout this timeframe and continues to operate, with similar requirements for confidentiality as covered in their letters of appointment.
- The Youth Advisory Group has also operated throughout this timeframe and continues to operate. As above, members of this group do not sign NDAs specifically, but their letters of acceptance include a confidentiality clause.
- The Rainbow Advisory Group was established in October 2025 and continues to operate. A confidentiality clause is included in their letters of acceptance.

Two categories of group identified in scope of your request falls within the People, Culture, and Enabling Services function.

- Service suppliers have attended Oranga Tamariki sites in working groups, supervised by Oranga Tamariki kaimahi, as part of a tender process. Participants signed NDAs for the protection of rangatahi, kaimahi and whānau from disclosure of potentially confidential information gathered while on site.
 - Fourteen suppliers attended the Epuni Care and Protection residence in October and November 2025.
 - Fourteen suppliers attended the Te Oranga Care and Protection residence in November and December 2025.
 - Twenty-three suppliers attended the Te Au rere a te Tonga Youth Justice residence in March 2026.
- Staff who worked on the Business Systems Children's costs project in 2024 were required to sign a Privacy Conditions Agreement relating to the handling of client-level data for this project.

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One category of group identified in scope of your request operates within the Commissioning and Investment function.

- In September 2025, fifteen provider reference groups were established. This includes one National Providers Reference Group and fourteen regional provider reference groups, per the table below:

Region	Sub-region
Taranaki	Taranaki / Manawatu
Lower Northern / Upper South	Wellington
	Upper South
South Island	Canterbury
	Lower South
	West Coast
East Coast	Gisborne
	Hawke's Bay
	Wairarapa
Auckland	Auckland Central / North West
	Auckland South
Bay of Plenty / Waikato	Bay of Plenty
	Waikato
Te Tai Tokerau	Te Tai Tokerau

Each member of these groups is required to sign an appointment letter with a confidentiality clause.

Three working groups (or categories of working group) identified in scope of your request fall within the Office of the Chief Executive function.

- A previous iteration of the Ministerial Advisory Board was established in February 2021, running until 31 January 2024. This board was re-established in July 2024 and has continued to operate to date. Confidentiality is addressed in the ToR for this board, which are publicly available as part of a Cabinet paper [here](#).
- The Risk and Assurance Committee has operated throughout the specified timeframe, with all members being required to sign an NDA and a confidentiality agreement. The ToR for this Committee also includes confidentiality clauses.
- Oranga Tamariki has administered nine grievance panels throughout the specified timeframe, in line with the number of Oranga Tamariki operational residences. Each grievance panel consists of three members, who are all required to sign an NDA at the time of their appointment.

With regards to part three of your request, no specific policy or guidance materials have been identified regarding NDAs and confidentiality agreements. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, on the grounds that the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

When establishing a working or advisory group such as those noted above, Oranga Tamariki will consider the privacy and confidentiality implications of the operations of these groups in order to determine any potential harm that may arise from the

disclosure of information in their remit. This will allow those responsible for establishing the working group to determine whether an NDA or other such confidentiality agreement would be an appropriate measure to prevent such harm.

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



Michelle Malyon

**General Manager Public Information and Ministerial Services
System Leadership**