

24 June 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 24 May 2025, in which you requested documents provided by the Ministry of Social Development to the Public Service Commission (PSC) as part of PSC's consultation on the Cabinet paper titled: **Repealing the Plain Language Act 2022.**

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), and I have found one email that was sent to PSC, in scope of your request. Please see this email enclosed with the letter as **Appendix**.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.

Anna Graham

General Manager

Ministerial and Executive Services

From: Melissa Gill

To: Hugo Vitalis

Cc: Out of scope ; Out of scope

Subject: RE: Consultation on Plain Language Act repeal - due 23 October

Date: Tuesday, 22 October 2024 3:28:59 pm

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IN-CONFIDENCE

Kia ora Hugo

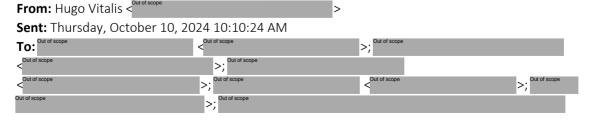
Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft cabinet paper proposing to repeal the Plain Language Act 2022. We also appreciate the time allowed for comments. My office has pulled together collective comments from MSD.

MSD's feedback on the proposed repeal is limited, noting that it wouldn't necessarily change the way that we use plain language. MSD has plain language guidance and processes, and these would remain in place.

Information in plain language is easier to put into alternate formats, and it was good to see that the cabinet paper references MSD's accessibility guide in this regard. Para 29 could also mention MSD's role in co-ordinating the all-of-Government alternate format process, however, I note that this co-ordination function is likely to transfer to the new agency replacing Whaikaha in due course (a question of timing in relation to this paper).

We look forward to hearing more in due course.





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Subject: Consultation on Plain Language Act repeal - due 23 October					

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

[In confidence] Kia ora koutou,

We want to consult with each of your departments on the attached draft cabinet paper that proposes to repeal the Plain Language Act 2022.

The rationale for the repeal of the Act is to remove unnecessary legislation and reduce compliance costs on agencies. The expectation is that agencies continue to use plain language in their communications as a matter of good practice.

The key implementation changes for agencies will be the removal of the annual reporting requirement, removal of the requirement to designate a plain language officer (although these arrangements can be preserved at the discretion of agencies on an informal, voluntary basis), and the retraction of the Rublic Service Commission's guidance on complying with the requirements of the Act.

In view of the <u>Guidance on the distribution of Cabinet-related material</u>, can you please ensure that you identify a responsible owner in your agency and that they are made aware of the Guidance on the appropriate handling of the attached Cabinet paper.

could your nominated responsible owner please provide any feedback or comments to by 23 October 2024.

Ngā mihi, Hugo

Hugo Vitalis (he/him)

Tumu Whakarae Tuarua | Deputy Chief Executive

Rautaki, Kaupapahere me te Ngākau Pono | Strategy, Policy, and Integrity

waea pūkoro: Outof scope Timēra: Outof scope

Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

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