



13 May 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 10 April 2025, requesting information relating to any allegations meeting the threshold for torture. You sought the following information:

- a. Can the Ministry confirm if it has found that allegations made by any claimants to the Historic Claims team have met the threshold for torture, pursuant to s 9 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and/or the UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment?
- b. If the answer to a. is yes, how many claimants has the Ministry identified?
- c. If the answer to a. is yes, how many of the claimants identified were clients of Cooper Legal
- d. If the answer to a. is yes, how has the Ministry addressed this finding in relation to settling the claimants' historical claims? and
- e. If the answer to a. is yes, how many claims has the Ministry referred to police?

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

In response to question (a), the Ministry has not identified any allegations made by claimants to the Historic Claims team that have met the threshold for torture. In responding to your request, the Ministry has interpreted your request to be asking whether any allegations have been identified that meet all the necessary criteria under ss 3 and 9 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and/or Article 1 of the UN Convention against Torture.

As the answer to question (a) is negative, the remainder of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

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