



9 March 2026

CRO OIA 1184-26



Tēnā koe

I refer to your request received and considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). On 1 February 2026, you requested the following information:

*Please provide, under the OIA, copies of any communications and meeting notes of discussions that CRO had regarding redress for abuse in care with the following NGOs, since 1 April 2025:*

- *Barnados New Zealand*
- *Birthright*
- *Cholmondeley*
- *Dingwall*
- *IHC*
- *Open Home Foundation*
- *Stand Tu Maia*
- *YMCA*
- *Youth and Cultural Development Trust*

*I do not require the contact details of staff or the names of junior staff members.*

On 9 February 2026, you refined your request to exclude administrative emails, such as meeting invitations.

#### **Decision on your request**

We identified various documents that fall within the scope of your request. The titles are listed in the table below:

	<b>Document title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	PAS - Non-state and faith-based engagement – Phase 1 meeting notes	Various in 2025
2	Stand Tu Maia meeting notes (2)	Sep 2025
3	PAS Commission Phase 1 Summary of insights report Non-state Redress FINAL	Oct 2025

I have decided to refuse your request in full. I have outlined the relevant sections and my reasons for refusal under these sections below.

- **Section 9(2)(f)(iv)** - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials. These documents have been compiled to give insight to policy advice which has been tendered to Senior Officials but is yet to be considered by Care Ministers or Cabinet.

- **Section 9(2)(ba)(i)** - to protect the supply of similar information in the future. Individuals, NGOs, and faith-based institutions engaged with the Crown Response Office (CRO) on the basis that any views expressed during discussions would be treated in confidence, unless otherwise agreed. It is my view that it is not in the public interest to release this information if it means these groups and individuals would no longer be willing to provide future insights, hindering the ability of the CRO to provide fulsome policy analysis to Care Ministers.
- **Section 9(2)(g)(i)** - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. This includes opinions expressed to the CRO from external parties. In this instance, I believe that there is a need to protect the information given to officials in the early work that has contribute to developing advice to government. This work is essential to the quality of the advice that is ultimately tendered, and its disclosure may have a chilling effect on how advice is developed in future.

I note that one further document, *Summary of insights for Non-state Redress*, contains some information that falls within the scope of your request. This is because it includes verbatim quotes from meetings with some NGOs listed in your request. I am withholding the information in scope of your request for the reasons listed above.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA. I do not consider that these considerations outweigh the need to withhold the information.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact [OIA@abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available via [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



John Henderson  
**General Manager, Enabling Services**