



16 April 2026

OIA 1284-26

[REDACTED]
Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I refer to your request received on 2 April 2026 and subsequently clarified on 9 April 2026. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). You requested the following information:

“Please provide an anonymised list of all discretionary payments offered by the Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, and the Crown Response Office, dating back to 1 January 2021.

Please specify the relevant agency involved, the basis for each payment, the amount of each payment (broken down where possible, in cases involving a discretionary payment that has been offered to cover multiple matters), and the date the payment was offered. Please also include the final amount paid in those cases where there was a review of the amount originally offered.”

On 8 April 2026, your request was transferred to the agencies listed in your request as the information requested is believed to be held by those agencies and is also more connected to the functions of those agencies. The Crown Response Office has retained the part of your request asking for information relating to discretionary payments offered by the Crown Response Office.

Response to your request

On 9 April 2026, we clarified that our interpretation of “discretionary payments” would be guided by the definition set out in the *Guidelines on Discretionary Payments for Abuse in State Care Claims* which can be found [here](#).

The Crown Response Office/Crown Response Unit does not, and has not previously, offered discretionary payments for claims of abuse in state care. Accordingly, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the information requested does not exist.

Lake Alice torture redress scheme

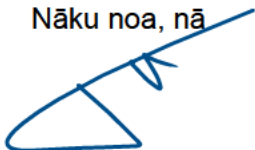
We do not consider that any payments of the Lake Alice torture redress scheme fall within the scope of your request. The Crown Response Office administered the Lake Alice torture redress scheme which involved non-discretionary redress payments being made to survivors.

The Lake Alice torture redress payments, and any costs met by the Crown to support participation in the scheme, were made pursuant to a dedicated redress scheme approved by Cabinet. Eligibility and the applicable payment and cost settings were determined in advance through that scheme. Accordingly, the payments and costs met under the Lake Alice redress scheme are not considered discretionary payments.

We intend to publish this OIA response on www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz (with your personal details having been removed). Publishing responses to OIA requests increases the availability of information to the public and is consistent with the purpose of the OIA to enable effective participation in the making and administration of law and policies, and to promote the accountability of Ministers and officials.

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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Henderson', written over a blue line that forms part of a stylized signature graphic.

John Henderson
General Manager Enabling Services

Published by the Crown Response Office