



12 August 2025

CRO-OIA-644/25

Tēnā koe

I refer to your request received on 16 July 2025, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). You requested the following information:

“a copy of any decisions, communications or discussions within the Crown Response Office or associated agencies around whether the Lake Alice torture agreements should be in “full and final” settlement.”

Information being withheld

Item	Date	Document Description
1	7 August 2025	Cover note: Independent arbiter for redress for torture at the Lake Alice Unit: suggested revisions to draft appointment paper and Terms of Reference following review by Hon Paul Davison KC
2	8 January 2025	Emails: CRO internal emails about changes to arbiter Terms of Reference (ToR)
3	8 January 2025	Emails: Email from Crown Law to CRO with summary of feedback on arbiter ToR
4	9 January 2025	Emails: CRO internal emails about revisions to arbiter ToR

The above documents are covered by your request. I have decided to withhold in full under the following section 9(2)(h) of the OIA - to maintain legal professional privilege.

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.

Information publicly available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available

Item	Date	Document Description	Link
5	2 April 2025	Appointment of Independent Arbiter	https://www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/information-releases/cabinet-papers-and-minutes/proactive-release-of-information-about-appointment-of-independent-arbiter

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the OIA – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

Some information has been withheld from the document/s available in the above link and should continue to be withheld under the grounds described in the document, in accordance with the OIA.

IN-CONFIDENCE

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact us via the dedicated OIA email address: 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



John Henderson
General Manager, Enabling Services

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