



16 February 2024

Ms Heather Baggott  
Te Pou Turuki mō Te Kawa Mataaho  
Deputy Public Service Commissioner

Tēnā koe Heather

1. You will be aware that a recent appointment at Te Puni Kōkiri has prompted comment within Te Puni Kōkiri, to the Public Service Commission | Te Kawa Mataaho and, this week, in the media.
2. On 8 January 2024, Te Puni Kōkiri employed 9(2)(a) privacy and now formally and officially known only as 9(2)(a) privacy a 12-month, fixed term role as Kaitohu Matua – Senior Advisor, Māori Capability.
3. 9(2)(a) privacy employment has given rise to media inquiries and public statements raising concern due to his previous serious misconduct while working as a teacher from 2018 to April 2019 9(2)(a) privacy was struck off the teaching register in April 2023.
4. Te Puni Kōkiri has now received Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) requests and media queries about 9(2)(a) privacy appointment process and role and seeking clarification about my connection with 9(2)(a) privacy I have known 9(2)(a) privacy 9(2)(a) privacy for over 39 years. We served together in the New Zealand Army. I consider 9(2)(a) p 9(2)(a) privacy a close friend.

Perception of conflict of interest in 9(2)(a) privacy employment

5. I am confident that the processes undertaken and the decision-making around 9(2)(a) privacy recruitment were appropriate and complied with Te Puni Kōkiri policies and Public Service Commission guidance. I was not involved in the recruitment process nor did I attempt in any way to influence the outcome of the recruitment process.
6. Regardless, I am aware that my personal connection with the 9(2)(a) privacy whānau has given rise to a perceived conflict of interest, and I consider it prudent to have the Te Puni Kōkiri processes and decision-making around 9(2)(a) privacy appointment looked into independently.

Request for the Public Service Commission to look into the appointment process of 9(2)(a) privacy

7. Given the perceived conflict of interest, I invite the Public Service Commission to independently look into the processes and decision-making, to dispel any doubt about the integrity of the process used and to maintain public trust and confidence.
8. I welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter with you.

Nāku noa, nā

Dave Samuels  
Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Puni Kōkiri

