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Official Information Request

Our Ref: OIA 2024-0332

I refer to your official information request received on 23 October 2024 for:

“Any correspondence with Oranga Tamariki in the last 12 months regarding their publication of CE expenses data”. For context the Ministry has not published their CE expenses data for the 23/24 period.

Our response

Secretaries and chief executives hold privileged positions as stewards of the New Zealand Public Service. They make a commitment to serve in the best interests of New Zealand and New Zealanders, acting with a spirit of service to the community.

The positions they hold come with high expectations for the standards of integrity and conduct they are expected to uphold. They must always put the interests of the Public Sector and their organisation before their own personal interests to maintain the trust and confidence of New Zealanders.

Secretaries and chief executives will, as is right, incur expenses as they carry out their role and they will be offered gifts and benefits, including hospitality. The decisions they make about these matters carry significant weight as they are subject to higher levels of public scrutiny than other public sector employees.

Because of this, they are expected to exercise the highest standard of judgement when accepting gifts and benefits or incurring expenses. Te Kawa Mataaho | Public Service Commission has issued gift benefit and expenses [model standards](#).

Further resources, which include the Excel workbook to be used, a guide for agency staff and DIA guidance for linking datasets, can be found at the link provided in the table below.

Item	Document Description	Website Address
1	Chief Executive Gifts, Benefits and Expenses	Chief executive gifts, benefits and expenses - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission

Communications with Oranga Tamariki

On 14 May 2024 and 25 June 2024 the Commission reminded Secretaries and chief executives of the Public Service and statutory Crown entities that they are required to disclose their [gifts, benefits & expenses](#) for the 2023/24 financial year on agency website and data.govt.nz by Wednesday 31 July 2024.

They were advised that before publishing, disclosures need to be reviewed and approved by the chief executive as well as a designated person such as an Audit and Risk committee member, or Chief Financial Officer (for departments), or Board Chairs for chief executives of Crown entities.

No additional communications were sent individually to Oranga Tamariki in the last 12 months regarding their publication of CE Expense data. Oranga Tamariki CE expense disclosure was published on their website on 30 October 2024 at the following link: [Search | Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children](#)

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please free to contact Enquiries@publicservice.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 at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that we intend to publish this letter (with your personal details removed) on the Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's website.

Yours sincerely



Nicky Dirks

Manager – Ministerial and Executive Services
Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission