



# **Te Kawa Mataaho**

Public Service Commission

18 February 2025

Andrew Bridgman  
Acting Secretary for Children and Chief Executive  
Oranga Tamariki

By email: [Andrew.bridgman@ot.govt.nz](mailto:Andrew.bridgman@ot.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe Andrew

## **Inquiry into the protection of personal information**

In June 2024, following a direction from the Prime Minister and the Minister for the Public Service, Acting Public Service Commissioner Heather Baggott appointed Pania Gray and Michael Heron KC to conduct an Inquiry into allegations that personal information provided to government agencies as part of Census 2023, or for Covid-19 vaccination purposes, had been misused by third-party service providers during the 2023 general election.

Under the [terms of reference](#), the inquiry was to establish the facts and provide an independent assessment of government agency activity in relation to the allegations. You have received an embargoed copy of the final report. Please keep this matter strictly confidential until public release.

Thank you for the support that you, your senior leaders and staff gave the inquiry leads during this process. I also acknowledge your agency's co-operation in providing the inquiry leads with access to all relevant documents and Oranga Tamariki (OT) staff to complete the inquiry.

## **The findings and my expectations**

The inquiry has confirmed that OT did not have any contracts or share any personal information with any of the relevant service providers for COVID 19 vaccination or Census 2023 purposes. Additionally, there was no record of any complaints referred or raised with OT.

The facts that have been established by the inquiry do, however, highlight some of the challenges that can arise when Public Service agencies use a co-location model with other non-public service organisations. Done well, co-locating in this way can have many benefits for the agencies involved and the public. As I'm sure you will be aware, there is a need to ensure that staff are aware of their obligations as public servants and are supported to navigate the boundaries between the work of the different agencies. I think it is important that OT has clear policies and practices that support managers to work through any risks that might arise when such arrangements are in place, and to help them identify appropriate mitigations. It is important that there is clear communication to staff and active monitoring of co-location arrangements.

## **Next steps**

I would appreciate you discussing the above issue with your Assistant Commissioner Sandra Preston and keeping her informed of any actions to address this issue. Sandra is available to answer any questions you may have about the content of this letter.

I will release the inquiry's final report today. When I do, I will write to Public Service chief executives, as this is a timely opportunity for every Public Service agency to ensure that they have robust policies and practices in place to address the issues highlighted by the report.

I would appreciate you giving your personal attention to the matters set out in that letter.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Roche". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sir Brian Roche KNZM

Te Tumu Whakarae mō Te Kawa Mataaho

Public Service Commissioner | Head of Service