



Scan for  
NZSL name



OIA2247

[REDACTED]

1 May 2024

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

I refer to your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request of 18 March 2024 to Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People (Whaikaha). You sought:

*After today's announced changes. I would like to request under the official informational act regarding the changes to purchasing rules announced on your website on March 18, 2024. I would like anything that related to this that is from the period dating November 27, 2023 until March 18, 2024 including:*

- Reports, memos, letters, notes, advice and emails
- Materials like tape recordings, videos or computer records and
- Internal policies or guidelines for decision making

In Table 1 below I have outlined all the relevant documents, and where possible, attached copies for your interest.

The documents include briefings to the Minister for Disability Issues, internal memos for the Whaikaha Executive Leadership (ELT) team, meeting minutes and action points.

Please note, a number of these briefings have been withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA, as they relate to the Budget 2024 process. Documents that provide more information about cost pressures, and the fiscal operating environment of Whaikaha cannot yet be released as they are currently subject to Ministerial consideration. It is important to keep this in mind while reading the released material, as it will not provide the full context of the decision making. Whaikaha will be in a position to consider releasing further documents after Budget 2024 is announced on 30 May 2024.

Some information has been withheld from the documents attached under the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the



- Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty
- Section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege.

You may also be interested in the Whaikaha 2023 Briefing to the Incoming Minister. This briefing is publicly available and gives an overview of the roles and responsibilities of Whaikaha and its Minister, and our long-term goals for the agency. It can be found here: <https://www.whaikaha.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-publications/reports-to-the-minister#scroll-to-1>.

We acknowledge that our communications and engagement with the community on this issue created stress and confusion and did not meet our usual practice. On 24 April 2024, Whaikaha provided further clarification about the Purchasing Rules for Flexible Funding. This information can be found on our website: [Clarifications on Purchasing Rules for Flexible Funding | Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People](#)

We are committed to working with disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori to ensure information is transparent and well communicated.

Thank you for taking the time to write. If you wish to discuss this response with us, or if you are seeking any further information, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_requests@whaikaha.govt.nz).

Please note, as part of its commitment towards increasing transparency, Whaikaha intends to make the information contained in this letter, and any attached documents, available to the wider public. Whaikaha will do this by publishing this letter on the Whaikaha website. Your personal details will be deleted, and no information that would identify you as the requestor will be released.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Emma Williams  
Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services

**Table 1: Documents relating to changes to Purchasing Rules and EMS**

#	Date of document	Title	Release status
1	5 December 2023	Ministerial briefing – EP/WHK/23/11/007 Whaikaha - Ministry of Disabled People Funded Disability Supports	Attached
2	13 December 2023	Talking points: Notes to support Hon Simmonds to discuss Whaikaha cost pressures with the Minister of Finance	Withheld in full (9(2)(f)(iv))
3	15 December 2023	Ministerial briefing – REP/WHK/23/12/016 Options to manage cost and spend growth in disability supports	Withheld in full (9(2)(f)(iv))
4	20 December 2023	ELT memo - Limiting 'sensitive expenditure' through flexible funding  Note: This paper was never presented to ELT. Instead a new paper was drafted and presented in February 2024.	Attached
5	19 February 2024	ELT memo - Changes to Flexible Funding	Attached
6	19 February 2024	ELT memo – Proposed Measures to manage demand within EMS	Attached
7	19 February 2024	Excerpt from ELT Meeting Minutes	Attached
8	19 January 2024	Ministerial briefing – REP/WHK/24/01/003 Prioritising options to manage cost and spend growth in disability supports.	Withheld in full (9(2)(f)(iv))
9	22 February 2024	Ministerial briefing – REP/WHK/24/2/018 Changes to Equipment and Modification Services and flexible funding to manage Whaikaha expenditure	Attached
10	28 February 2024	Excerpt from Action Points from Whaikaha officials meeting with the Minister for Disability Issues	Attached
11	4 March 2024	ELT memo - Implementation Plan for changes to Flexible Funding	Attached
12	4 March 2024	Excerpt from ELT Meeting Minutes	Attached
13	7 March 2024	Ministerial briefing – REP/WHK/24/03/025 Update on progress on Whaikaha savings options	Withheld in full (9(2)(f)(iv))
14	14 March 2024	Memo to Minister - Update on implementing changes to EMS and flexible funding to manage Whaikaha	Attached

	expenditure	
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