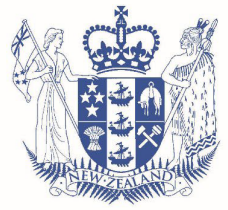


# Office of Hon Simeon Brown

Minister of Health  
Minister for State Owned Enterprises  
Minister for Auckland



6 May 2025

PATHA Secretary

By email: info@patha.nz  
Ref: SBOIA25-652

Dear PATHA Secretary

## Response to your request for information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 2 April 2025 to the Minister of Health, Hon Simeon Brown.

Please find each part of your request addressed below.

1. *Copies of all notes or memoranda relating to the Guidelines.*
2. *Copies of all communications the Minister has had with the Associate Minister of Health, Hon Matt Doocey, relating to the Guidelines; and*

A search of our information systems has not identified any items in scope of these parts of your request. Accordingly, section 18(e) of the Act applies as the information requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts, cannot be found.

3. *Copies of all information, documentation, notes, memoranda or communications to, from or with Te Whatu Ora relating to the Guidelines (dated no earlier than 1 January 2025).*

One email and its two attachments have been identified in scope of your request. Upon consideration, these are withheld in full under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to protect the confidentiality of advice being developed by officials ahead of final decisions being made and to protect the effective conduct of public affairs by maintaining the ability of officials to express opinions freely and frankly during guidelines development and the communications planning process.

I have considered the countervailing public interest in releasing the information in making this decision. At this time, I do not consider that the public interests outweighs the need to withhold, for the reasons outlined above.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by calling 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "B Anderton". The signature is stylized, with a large "B" and a cursive "Anderton".

Brian Anderton  
**Senior Ministerial Advisor**