



s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

On 02 July 2025 Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) received your request for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

all communications with staff regarding a potential triple-merger between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry for the Environment and Ministry of Transport.

In addition, please provide any internal meeting notes, briefings, business cases, and communication with Public Service Minister Judith Collins from the Ministry, on this topic.

In addition, please provide communications between the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the CEs of the two other mentioned Ministries on this topic, if it exists.

I am releasing to you two documents with my mobile phone number withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect my privacy. These two documents are an email I sent to all staff on 1 July 2025, and talking points for an all-staff stand up on 3 July 2025, both in response to the media speculation. I spoke at the all-staff meeting as laid out in the talking points, and I did not receive any questions.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the decision to withhold information under section 9 of the Act is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

The documents are detailed in the attached document schedule.

I have not met or corresponded with the Minister for the Public Service, Hon Judith Collins KC, on this topic.

James Palmer, Chief Executive of the Ministry for the Environment, and I discussed over the phone what we would each say to our staff to reassure them about the report.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman's website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

As part of our ongoing commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry proactively releases information and documents that may be of interest to the public. As such, this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on our website.

Nāku noa, nā



Brad Ward

**Acting Chief Executive**

**Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development**

**Annex A: Document schedule**

<b>Documents released – HUD2025-007425</b>			
	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Section of the Act applied</b>
1	1 July 2025	Email from Brad Ward to all staff: Media from today relating to HUD	9(2)(a)
2	3 July 2025	Stand up run sheet and talking points: 3 July 2025	N/A

**From:** [Brad Ward](#)  
**To:** [DL - All Users](#); [Bronwyn Lauten](#); [Olivia Burnett](#); [Huriwai Paki \(Guest\)](#); [Libby Nesus - Parliament](#)  
**Subject:** Media from today relating to HUD  
**Date:** Tuesday, 1 July 2025 10:20:49 am  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)

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Kia ora koutou

You may have seen a story in the media today about a suggestion that the Public Service Commission is working on a proposal to merge Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry for the Environment and the Ministry of Transport.

I appreciate that you may find this news unsettling. The Commission provides ongoing advice on machinery of government changes if they can deliver efficiencies and value to taxpayers. Ultimately, mergers and changes to machinery of government are questions for Ministers and the Public Service Commission, and media speculation isn't helpful.

I assure you if I have anything to share about this in the future, I will do so, as I have with the continuation of acting CE arrangements. In the meantime, thank you for your focus on delivering the important work we do every day.

Ngā mihi  
Brad

**Brad Ward**

Acting Chief Executive

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[IN-CONFIDENCE:RELEASE EXTERNAL]

# **Stand up run sheet and talking points: 3 July 2025**

**Kia ora and welcome**

**Karakia timatanga (opening karakia)**

**Introduction – Brad Ward**

**Reactive bullets about merger rumours**

- I appreciate this news has been unsettling for many of you.
- It's the Public Service Commission's role to provide ongoing advice on machinery of government changes if they can deliver efficiencies and value to taxpayers.
- I assure you that if I have anything to share about this, I will do so, as I have with the continuation of acting CE arrangements.
- Ultimately, mergers and changes to machinery of government are questions for Ministers and the Public Service Commission, and media speculation isn't helpful.

**Any other questions from the floor or online – Brad Ward**