



22 October 2025

HUD2025-008431

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)

On 20 October 2025 Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (the Ministry) received your requests for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Your first email asked for:

1. What's your relationship with Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust or any of its board members or personnel?
2. A copy of all agreements MHUD had or has with this charitable trust?
3. What's your connection to the whenua at Rotokawa that was at the centre of an abatement notice to the trust?
4. What information or advice you gave Rotorua Lakes Council at a meeting you attended earlier this year about the abatement notice?

Your second email asked for:

1. A copy of any and all agreements MHUD had or currently has with Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust.
2. All emails or other correspondence mentioning Tikanga Aroro or an abatement notice or Rotorua Lakes Council, that were sent by, and received by, MHUD's deputy chief executive Jessica Smith from 1 January to 20 October this year.
3. What is MHUD's relationship with Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust?
4. Were any conflicts of interests declared by Jessica Smith in regard to Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust board members and or personnel between January 1 and March 7 this year?
5. What advice or message did Jessica Smith give to Rotorua Lakes Council at a meeting in March that she attended concerning its issuing of an abatement notice on Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust?
6. Is MHUD looking to develop housing in Rotorua for parolees?

Your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and has no grounds for believing that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown.

The Ministry does not have any agreements or a relationship with Tikanga Aroro Charitable Trust.

Your request references a meeting we attended about an abatement notice. The Ministry attended this meeting as it was concerned that people might have nowhere else to stay if the service was ceased and wanted to support them, if that were the case. The Ministry did not provide any information or advice to the Council on, or seek to interfere in any way with, the abatement notice.

The Ministry is not looking to develop housing in Rotorua specifically for parolees.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kate Goodman', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kate Goodman

General Manager Communications and Government Services
Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development