

20 March 2023

## Section (9)(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 102750

Tēnā koe **Section (9)(2)(a)**

### Official Information Act request: Tauranga innovative courthouse

Thank you for your emails of 20 February and 2 March 2023 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Tauranga innovative courthouse. Specifically, you requested:

*All reports, advice, assessments, budget reviews, recommendations, risk analyses that the Ministry of Justice has produced or received regarding the proposed new courthouse in Tauranga at 27 McLean since 1 January 2022.*

*All final reports, advice, assessments, recommendations, risk analyses that the Ministry of Justice has produced or received regarding the Innovative Courthouse project/development in Tauranga since 1 January 2022.*

For administrative purposes, we have combined your requests into one response.

As you will be aware, this is a significant project. In the last 18 months the Ministry of Justice has had a project team working on the practical (but not insignificant) tasks needed to prepare for construction. This has included merging six individual sites into a single title and redesignating their zoning, as well as undertaking the assessments, planning and procurement needed to commence demolition of the existing structures on the new site. The team has also been working with the local iwi, the judiciary, stakeholders, architects, engineers, and other specialists to develop concepts and designs for the new courthouse. That design work is integral to the development of the detailed business case, which is being developed for Cabinet consideration later this year.

As such, in preparing a response to your request it has become apparent that the scope of your request is very wide and includes a large volume of documentation. The Ministry is therefore refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act on the grounds that it could not be made available without substantial collation and research. You are most welcome to make a new request, however, I note that the documentation relating to the concept and detailed design, costings, and development of the detailed business case would likely be

withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/](https://justice.govt.nz/about/official-information-act-requests/oia-responses/).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Office of the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phone on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Tina Wakefield  
**Deputy Secretary, Corporate and Digital Services**