

3 July 2026

Ref: OIA26-TW15

s9(2)(a)

Via email: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 17 June 2026 requesting information as follows:

"This request is made under the Official Information Act 1982.

Since 23 November 2023:

1. *How many working groups, advisory groups, reference groups, expert panels, stakeholder groups, or similar bodies administered by your agency have required participants to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA), confidentiality agreement, or confidentiality undertaking as a condition of participation?*
2. *Please provide the figure for each of:*
 - o *23 November 2023 to 31 December 2023*
 - o *2024*
 - o *2025*
 - o *2026 to date*
3. *Please provide any current policy, guidance, or criteria governing when such agreements may be required.*

Please send the information electronically in a fully searchable format."

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

Response

My response to **parts 1 and 2** of your request is provided in the table below. The groups comprised a mix of working groups, advisory groups and expert panels.

Date Range	No. Of Groups
23 Nov to 31 Dec 2023	2
1 Jan to 31 Dec 2024	4
1 Jan to 31 Dec 2025	5
1 Jan to 31 May 2026	3

In respect of **part 3** of your request the Commission's underlying practice is to assess the confidentiality or sensitivity of information that group participants will be exposed to in order to ensure appropriate measures are put in place to protect confidentiality and disclosure.

The Commission's approach is to be consistent with, and follow, the Government's procurement framework including use of Government Model Contract (GMC) that contains embedded confidentiality and conflict of interest obligations. In instances where GMCs do not apply, standard conflict of interest and confidentiality agreements are put in place with participants.

I trust this response addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my response.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Commission's website.

Yours sincerely

Vanisa Dhuru
General Manager, Corporate