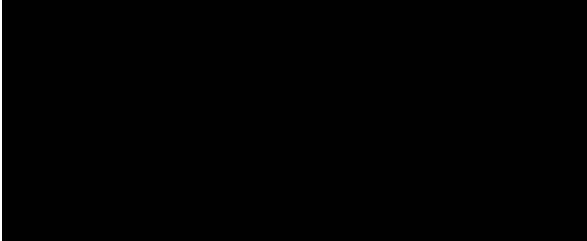




22 August 2023



OIA Request

Our Ref: OIA353/1

1. I refer to your official information request dated 28 July 2023 for:
 1. any and all information pertaining to the Attorney-General ... and the inner workings of a day to day function between himself and his subordinates to fulfil [his roles as senior Law Officer of the Crown and a Minister of the Crown]; and
 2. [information relating to the] complaints process ... to the Attorney-General's office ... pertaining to allegations that a Governmental entity has systemic widespread internal flaws, that would result in a failure to adhere to the law in mass.
2. Insofar as you request general information about the Attorney-General's role, that information is publicly available. As you have indicated in your email, there is some information about the Attorney-General's role, in particular as senior Law Officer, on Crown Law's website. Some of the resources available include:
 - 2.1 the briefing papers to the incoming Attorney-General: <https://www.crownlaw.govt.nz/publications/briefing-papers-to-incoming-attorneys-general/>; and
 - 2.2 John McGrath KC "Principles for sharing law officer power: the role of the New Zealand Solicitor-General" (1998) 18 NZULR 197: <https://www.crownlaw.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/NZULR.PDF>.
3. We provide these references in case it assists you in understanding the Attorney-General's role. However because the information you request is publicly available, your request for the provision of information under the Official Information Act 1982 is refused under s 18(d).

4. Your request regarding complaints processes is very general and for this reason we are unable to respond to it with specificity in its current form. Insofar as you seek information about making a complaint about government agencies, that information can be found on the Ombudsman's website: <https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/what-ombudsman-can-help/complaints-about-government-agencies>. Members of the public can write directly to the relevant Minister with concerns they may have. Likewise, members of the public are also able to write to the Attorney-General with their concerns. However, as the Attorney-General does not have a supervisory role of other Ministerial portfolios, any such complaint may need to be referred accordingly.
5. If you are seeking legal advice about making a complaint against a government agency, Crown Law cannot provide members of the public with legal advice or assistance. This is because Crown Law provides legal advice and representation services to the government.
6. If you need a legal assistance, you can visit the New Zealand Law Society's website (www.lawsociety.org.nz) where there is information on searching for a lawyer. Or you can call the Law Society on (04) 472 7837.
7. Alternatively, you can visit your local Citizens Advice Bureau or Community Law Centre, which may be able to provide assistance with finding a lawyer or making a complaint. You can find the location of your local Citizens Advice Bureau by visiting www.cab.org.nz or calling 0800 367 222, and the location of your local Community Law Centre by visiting <http://communitylaw.org.nz>.

Right to seek review

8. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

