

29 February 2024



Official information request for court proceedings regarding the Coalition Government's Te Reo Māori policy Our Ref: OIA353/1

MOSFICE

- 1. I refer to your official information request dated 25 January 2024.
- 2. The second item in your request was for 'a copy of formal complaints and court proceedings regarding the Government's Te Reo Māori policy, from October 14 to the date of this email, January 25, 2024'. That item was transferred to the Crown Law Office on 1 February. We advised that we would respond on or before today's date.
- 3. We have reviewed our records, and understand that from October 14, 2023 to January 25, 2024, four applications for an urgent inquiry were filed with the Waitangi Tribunal in respect of the Coalition Government's te reo Māori policy, and one proceeding was filed in the High Court which also touches on similar issues.
- 4. The four Waitangi Tribunal urgency applications are:
  - 4.1 Wai 3308;
  - 4.2 Wai 682;
  - 4.3 Wai 3077;
  - 4.4 Wai 1194.

Documents in respect of each application can be found on the Ministry of Justice website (<u>https://forms.justice.govt.nz/search/WT/</u>), using the Waitangi Tribunal Inquiries search tool and the relevant 'Wai' number.

6. The High Court proceeding, *Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Incorporated v Attorney-General*, was filed by the representative body of Waikato-Tainui, on 10 January 2024. The CIV number for the claim is CIV-2024-485-6.

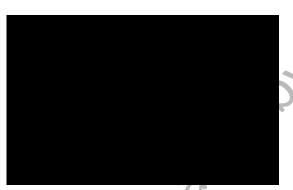
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- 7. An application for access to the statement of claim can be made under the Senior Courts (Access to Court Documents) Rules 2017 (the application form is available <u>here</u>).
- 8. We note that one application under those Rules for access to the statement of claim has already been declined, because the Attorney-General is yet to file a statement of defence. That remains the position (as the Attorney-General intends to meet with representatives of the plaintiff before filing a defence).

## Proactive release

- 9. Please note that we may publish this response (with your personal details redacted), and any related documents, on Crown Law's website if we decide proactive release of this information is or may be in the public interest. If you have any concerns about this, please let us know within 10 working days of the date of this letter.
- 10. 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.
- 11. If you wish to discuss this response, please feel free to contact me at

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