



Reference: 25-OIAD-009

4 November 2025

Tēnā koe ^{9(2)(a)}

Response to your Official Information Act Request

Information Act 1982 Thank you for your email of 30 September 2025 requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) the following information as refined by you on 13 October 2025:

All information held by the Ministry relating to consultation with the Kahui Group in relation to the location of the Oranga Tamariki System monitoring function, including but not limited to what was specifically said by whom.

So, to clarify, this is not about what others said to the Kahui Group when/if it consulted with others, but what the Kahui Group said in its meetings and in its communications with MSD. So, minutes of meetings, records of meetings, who said what in meetings etc.

I have interpreted the scope of your request to be for information held relating to consultation with the Kāhui Group about the location of the oranga tamariki system monitoring function.

Arotoruki Tamariki, the Independent Children's Monitor, was established in 2019 to monitor compliance with the National Care Standards Regulations. At that time, it operated as a business until within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). On 1 May 2023, the role of Aroturuki Tamariki expanded to monitor the whole of the oranga tamariki system and it became a departmental agency hosted by the Education Review Office (ERO).

On 1 August 2025, Aroturuki Tamariki became an independent Crown entity which addressed some of the concerns key stakeholders (including the Kāhui Group) had about it being a departmental agency and the departmental agency being hosted by ERO.

During the early phases of establishment of the monitoring function, MSD brought together the Kāhui Group to support MSD to undertake a culturally appropriate engagement process that would lead to a well-designed, respected and culturally appropriate oversight system. Their role was to provide expert advice and oversight of the Ministry's process for engaging with Māori and endorsement that the final design of the oversight system appropriately reflected feedback received during the engagement process. After the Independent Children's Monitor began conducting its initial monitoring visits, the role of the Kāhui Group shifted towards supporting the development of its monitoring approach and engagement in relation to that monitoring work.

As mentioned in an email to you on 13 October 2025, the consequence of the move means that some information relating to the development of the legislation and the creation of the Independent Children's Monitor largely sits within MSD. Operational information sits with Aroturuki Tamariki.

I have identified four documents held by Aroturuki Tamariki that contain information in scope of your request. These are listed in the document schedule below. Three documents are minutes from meetings between Aroturuki Tamariki and the Kāhui Group, and one is a document containing feedback from the Kāhui Group to MSD about the draft Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Bill.

The majority of the information within these documents is out of scope of your request. Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions.

In terms of section 9(1) of the Act, I am satisfied that, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable to make the information available in the public interest.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Office of the Ombudsman of my decision to withhold information relating to this request, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on their website at:

www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Please note that due to the public interest in our work, Aroturuki Tamariki publishes responses to requests for official information on our website here. If you have any queries about this, please feel free to contact us on info@aroturuki.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi nui

Released under the provisions of the Official Information Act, 1982

Document schedule

Minutes

Independent Children's Monitor

The monitor for the Oranga Tamariki system

Kāhui Group

Date: Thursday 26 November 2020

Time: 10.17am - 2.13pm Venue: 50TT Room 3.1/3.2

Attendees: Kāhui – Donna Matahaere-Atariki (Chair), Eugene Ryder, Druis Barrett

ICM - Arran Jones, Nova Banaghan, Hera Douglas, Cinnamon Whitlock, Doug

Fauchelle, Maria Henry, Kayt Robinson, Arthur Grooby

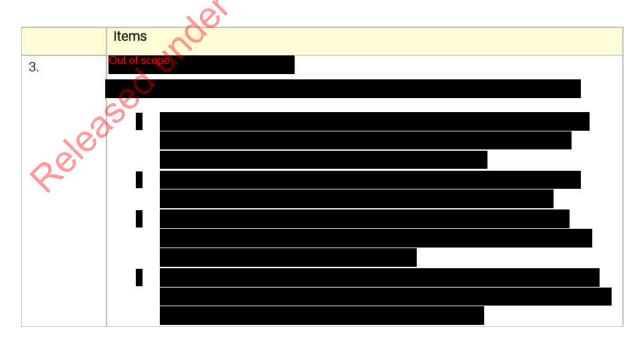
MSD: Ryan McLean & Tracey Davies (Item 4)

Support: Seth Rea

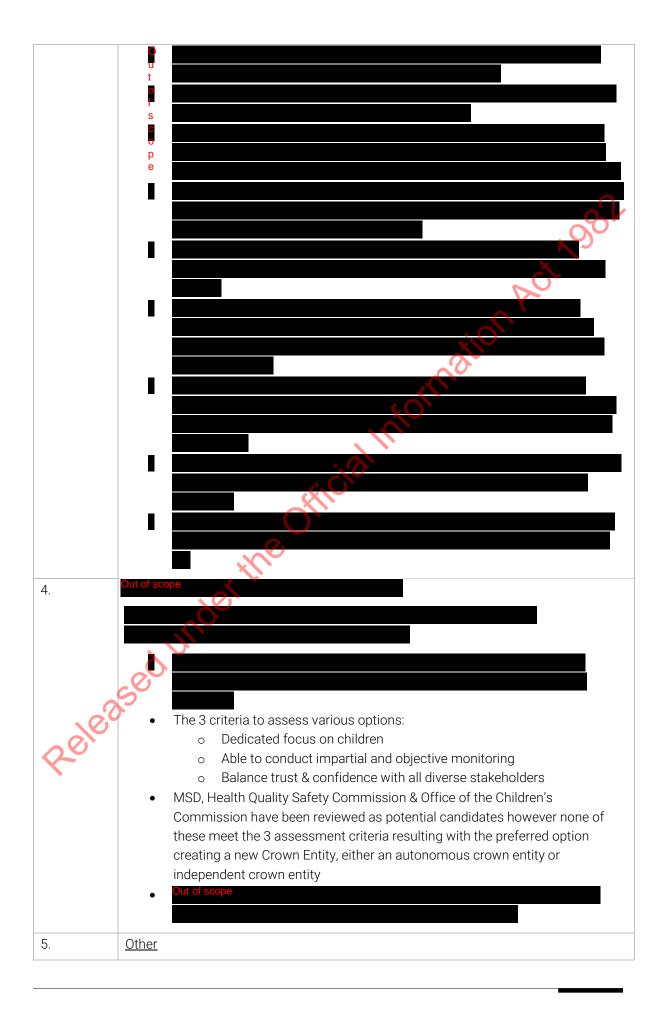
Apologies: Katie Murray, Ta Mark Solomon & Margaret Mabbett (PSC)

The meeting started at 10.17am

	Introduction
1 & 2.	Out of scope



Independent Children's Monitor 50 The Terrace, Wellington 6011 PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 www.icm.org.nz



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Close	

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

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Minutes

Independent Children's **Monitor**

The monitor for the Oranga Tamariki system

Kāhui Group

Date: Wednesday 10 February 2021

Time: 10.28am - 1.54pm Venue: 56T, L3 Room 3.1

Attendees: Kāhui - Donna Matahaere-Atariki (Chair), Eugene Ryder, Katie Murray

ICM - Arran Jones, Nova Banaghan, Hera Douglas, Cinnamon Whitlock, Doug

Fauchelle, Anna Davidson, Sue Harding

Mornai MSD: Ryan McLean & Tracey Davies (Item 4)

Support: Seth Rea

Apologies: Ta Mark Solomon

The meeting started at 10.28am





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Ryan also discussed the option of a Statutory Officer supported by a departmental agency, the Statutory Officer is similar to a CE, and would be appointed by Peter Hughes the Public Services Commissioner, in accordance with a process that is set out within the Public Services Act which requires an appointment panel to be established to give advice (the Act outlines who should be on the panel). A key issue with this option is the PSA does not make any provision for Māori to be a part of this process – in order for us to pursue this option we would use the process outlined in the Public Services Act (PSA) and then propose in addition to this - that there is Māori involvement in the appointment panel, provided for through legislation. However, this option does not rely on a parent/monitoring agency to secure resourcing. A Statutory Officer is both the Board & the CE combined into one role. Kāhui members attending are leaning towards Statutory Officer supported by Departmental Agency. 5. Released under the

The meeting finished at 1.54pm

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Minutes

Independent Children's Monitor

The monitor for the Oranga Tamariki system

Kāhui Group

 Date:
 Wednesday 7 April 2021

 Time:
 10.00am - 1.30pm

Venue: 50T, L3 Room 3.1 & 3.2

Attendees: Kāhui – Eugene Ryder, Katie Murray, Ta Mark Solomon

ICM – Arran Jones, Nova Banaghan, Hera Douglas (Chair), Shelley Tyson, Cinnamon Whitlock, Doug Fauchelle, Anna Davidson, Charlie Harris-Miller

MSD: Ryan McLean

Support: Seth Rea

Apologies: Donna Matahaere-Atariki, Druis Barrett

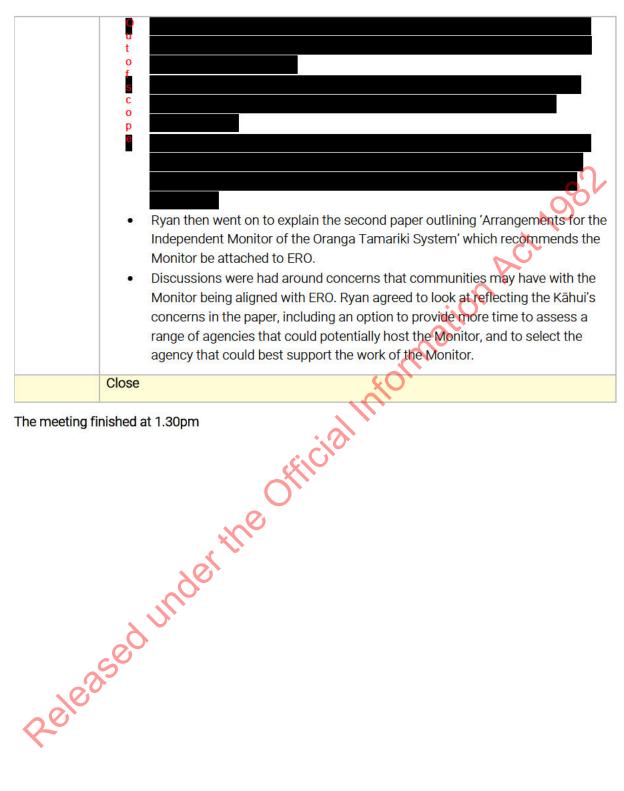
The meeting started at 10.28am

	Introduction	
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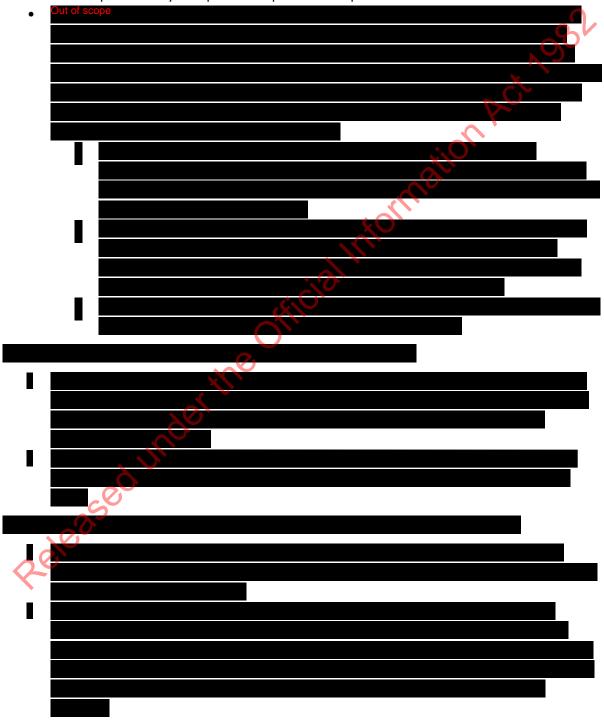


IN-CONFIDENCE

Summary of feedback from Kāhui to MSD on Version 18 of draft Bill, 2 June 2021

Confirming that the Monitor will be independent

• Te Kāhui members sought assurance about the Monitor's independence and how this is reflected in the Bill. They reiterated the importance, informed by consultation with stakeholders, that the Monitor must be independent and "have teeth", have authority and not be subject to coercion. The Monitor must be seen as independent by the public – optics are important.



IN-CONFIDENCE

