

15 September 2020

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your official information request of **Wednesday 19 August 2020** for:

*Did the Ministry for Women make a submission to a Select Committee or any other body or to any MP regarding recent proposed amendments to the Births Deaths and Marriages Act?*

*Did the Ministry for Women make a submission to Statistics NZ or any advisory body or to any MP regarding proposed changes to the way sex and gender data will be collected in the 2023 census?*

*If the answer to these questions is yes, please provide a copy of the submissions.*

*If the answer is no, please explain the process that was undertaken and the reasoning to decide that the Ministry for Women would not make submissions on these issues.*

The information you have requested is as follows:

The Ministry for Women has not made any submissions to a Select Committee or any other body or to any MP regarding recent proposed amendments to the Births Deaths and Marriages Act; or to Stats NZ or any advisory body or to any MP regarding proposed changes to the way sex and gender data will be collected in the 2023 Census. The content consultation by Stats NZ for the 2023 Census has not yet taken place.

It is not usual practice for government agencies to make submissions to Select Committees. We only make submissions where we consider we would not otherwise be consulted, for example in the review of the tax system. The Ministry is usually asked for input through interagency consultation on matters relating to our portfolio. However, incidentally, we were not consulted by the Department of Internal Affairs on the inclusion of self-identification clauses in the *Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Bill*.

### **Official Information Act responses**

Please note that this response, with your personal details redacted, may be published on the Ministry's website. If you have any concerns or comments related to this, please let us know by emailing [ministerialservicing@women.govt.nz](mailto:ministerialservicing@women.govt.nz), within two weeks of the date of this letter.

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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



**Renee Graham**  
Chief Executive