

28 April 2020

Tēnā koe

OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

On 25 March 2020, we wrote to you in response to an official information request you sent to us on 26 February 2020. Following this response, on **Thursday 26 March 2020**, we received the questions below from you:

Can the Ministry of Women define 'woman' without using the word woman? If so, please provide that definition.

Can the Ministry of Women describe what identifying as a woman means?

What distinguishes someone identifying as a woman from a man?

Does the Ministry of Women accept self-identified women as women or do you require evidence that the sex marker on identity documents has been changed to show 'F' or 'Woman'?

Can the Ministry of Women describe what 'sex' is and what 'gender' is?

Would the Ministry of Women record, or accept recordings from other agencies, a transwoman as a lesbian if they are exclusively attracted to women?

What is the Ministry of Women's definition of homosexuality?

Does the definition of woman to the Ministry of Women rely on sex or gender?

Does the Ministry of Women consider people of the female sex women, or are they people of the female gender?

Our 25 March 2020 response included the Ministry for Women's definition of 'women' – *The Ministry for Women defines women as people who identify as women. This definition is inclusive of transgender women.* The Ministry has no further information to provide in response to your request of 26 March 2020, requesting additional definitions.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, or discuss further the work of the Ministry for Women, please feel free to contact [REDACTED], Principal Policy Advisor at [REDACTED].

Official Information Act responses

As advised in our earlier response, 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, 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 or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

Renee Graham
Chief Executive