

10 May 2022

s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

## OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

I refer to your Official Information Act (the Act) request of 12 April 2022 sent to the Ministry of Justice.

You have been advised by the Ministry of Justice this request has been transferred to Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women under section 14 of the Act. Your request is:

- 1. "Has the Justice Minister Hon Kris Faafoi completed the Report to update CEDAW at the United Nations, as to the recommendations made to the New Zealand government regarding a Family Court Royal Commission of Enquiry?"*
- 2. If the Report to update CEDAW is complete, I would like a copy of it please*
- 3. If the Report to update CEDAW is not complete, what is the date that it is anticipated to be completed by this year (2022)?"*

Manatū Wāhine Ministry for Women is the agency responsible for reporting on the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

The due date of the ninth periodic report on New Zealand's implementation of CEDAW, was originally scheduled for 20 July 2022. However, due to reporting delays related to the COVID-19 pandemic, this report was postponed by the CEDAW Committee. The information we have at this time indicates the next report is due in 2023.

The New Zealand Government requested to sign up for [simplified reporting](#) for this next report. Simplified reporting facilitates the reporting process, provides the CEDAW Committee with more targeted reporting, enhances the effectiveness of the treaty monitoring system, and strengthens State parties' capacity to respond in a timely and effective manner.

Under this option, the CEDAW Committee will highlight a “List of issues prior to reporting” for the New Zealand Government to respond to that will constitute the next report. We expect to receive the list of issues in July 2022.

Simplified reporting will still require public and agency engagement. Further information on this will be published on our website [here](#).

We have consulted with the Ministry of Justice and they have confirmed that the Government responded to the 2018 recommendation regarding the establishment of a royal commission in the follow-up information provided in 2020. This information can be found [here](#). Also, as [requested by the UN Committee in 2021](#), the Government will provide a further response in its next periodic report which is due in 2023.

If addition, you may wish to view the Ministry’s [2020 Interim CEDAW report](#) which refers to the Committee’s recommendation for a Royal Commission of Inquiry and highlights reforms to the family justice system (pp 8-10.)

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



**Kellie Coombes**  
Secretary for Women