



14 October 2025

Official information request for the function of the Constitutional and Human Rights Team

Our Ref: OIA-2526045

1. I refer to your official information request dated 19 September 2025 for Crown Law's Constitutional and Human Rights Team's function with specific relevance to international law obligations.
2. The Constitutional and Human Rights Team (the Team) provides administrative support to the Attorney-General in relation to charities, change of legal status requests for special patients, letters of request for overseas evidence, vexatious litigant orders, and the vetting of Bills for compliance with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. The Team also provides administrative support to the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General in relation to the discharge of adoption orders under the Adoption Act 1955 and requests for second inquests under the Coroners Act 2006. The Team also supports the appointments of Crown Solicitors, King's Counsel and Judges of the Higher Courts.
3. The Team provides legal advice and litigation expertise in the following areas, which relate to constitutional and human rights: judicial matters; electoral and parliamentary law; the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990; the New Zealand Human Rights Act 1993; discrimination; habeas corpus; police civil litigation; prisoners' rights; and terrorism. The government ministries and departments which the Team particularly provides support to are: Department of Corrections, New Zealand Police and the Ministry of Justice.
4. The Team also provides legal advice and litigation expertise on New Zealand's obligations under international human rights frameworks. Further work in the international law area includes responding to claims to the United Nations Committee Against Torture. The Team recently facilitated a visit of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, presented to the subcommittee and made itself available to answer questions.

5. 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.
6. 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.
7. If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact OIA@crownlaw.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā
Crown Law



Peter Gunn
Team Manager and Crown Counsel