**Crown information handover to Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry**

In response to formal requests from the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry, Government agencies have recently provided a large quantity of documents to the Inquiry.

The documents include policies, procedures, reports and Cabinet papers, and anonymised claims and other data. Some of these documents include details about claimants and their settlements.

The Royal Commission requested this material from Government agencies to prepare for its hearing on redress for historic abuse claimants, scheduled for March 2020, and for its ongoing investigations.

While the Crown was legally required to provide the Commission with this information, it also did so as part of the Crown’s commitment to support the Royal Commission as best it can.

The Royal Commission has issued a legal order preventing public access to any of these documents without the permission of the Inquiry, including any personal and private information contained within them. This does not prevent the Inquiry from using this information to undertake the work required by its’ Terms of Reference. In doing so it will carefully balance the public interest and protection of individual privacy.

The Royal Commission will consider any further steps that might be needed to make sure that personal privacy is dealt with appropriately in the coming redress hearing as well as throughout the whole Inquiry.

The Royal Commission shares the Crown’s commitment to protecting people’s privacy throughout the Inquiry’s proceedings.

**FAQs**

**Can I obtain any information about me that’s in these documents, and how do I do that?**

Yes – you retain the right under the Privacy Act to see your personal information held by government agencies. You can make requests under the Privacy Act to the agency or agencies involved but this information cannot be obtained from the Royal Commission. Requests can also be made through the Office of the Privacy Commissioner <https://www.privacy.org.nz/about-us/contact/>

**How do I know that information about me or my organisation will be protected?**

The Royal Commission is committed to protecting personal information, including by issuing an order preventing public access to any documents provided by agencies.

**Why didn’t the Government ask my permission before passing on my information?**

Government agencies are legally required to pass on any information they hold if asked by the Royal Commission. Steps have been taken to ensure your personal information remains secure, as explained above.

**I work for a non-government organisation. Can I obtain any information about my NGO that’s in these documents?**

Yes – your right under the Official Information Act to request information held by government agencies remains unchanged. The request should go to the agency or agencies involved, not to the Royal Commission.

**What types of personal information have been provided to the Royal Commission?**

Some of the documents may include personal information about claimants, caregivers, staff and others involved in allegations of abuse and subsequent claims processes. As outlined above, steps have been taken to ensure your personal information remains secure.

**Do the files include information or allegations about current or former staff?**

As the Royal Commission’s focus is on understanding peoples’ experiences and their interactions with agencies, some information about current or former staff is included in the material provided to the Royal Commission. Staff are encouraged to contact the relevant agency if they have any questions.

**What will the Royal Commission do with my information?**

The documents were requested by the Royal Commission to help it prepare for its historic claims redress hearing in March, as well as to assist it meets its Terms of Reference throughout the Inquiry.

Further information is available from our Contact Centre on Freephone 0800 222 727.

**ends**