

1 August 2024

DOIA24/099

§ 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe § 9(2)(a)

I refer to your request transferred to us by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on 11 June 2024, which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). You requested the following information:

"Information regarding Mataariki (Matariki) and the sources supporting the nine-star narrative used for the national holiday. Specifically, I am seeking access to documents, studies, or any other relevant materials presented to the government to support the narrative of Mataariki being comprised of nine stars - and the concept of Te Waka a Tamarereti. I would like to know how this was determined and from what sources.

I am aware of his publication Matariki - the star of the year. If it was his grandfathers book that was used as the source, I would like to a copy of it as "Knowledge that isn't shared isn't knowledge" and if this knowledge is being used to support a national narrative and a national holiday, then it is a document of national significance rather than a personal or private document and therefore in the foremost interest of the nation to have access to the sources.

I would like to know how the names of the stars were determined as many hapu and iwi have different variations of names and very different stories with regard to the origins and why the names used are given preference over others (i.e Hiwa i te rangi versus Hinawa i te rangi). I would like to know how and why nine stars are determined for the national narrative or why five, twelve or seven star narratives are not equally determined.

I understand that Prof. R. Mataamua has noted that it is up to individual iwi and hapu to conduct their own research, however, I would like to know whether a cultural impact assessment was made or study into the potential impact or marginalisation on iwi and hapu narratives. I would like any information regarding expenditure of the Mataariki advisory committee also."

After an email discussion, on 26 June 2024 we agreed to refine your request to:

"Advice provided to Ministers by Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage in relation to the Te Ture mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o Te Kāhui o Matariki / Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Act."

While discussing this refinement, we also sent you a list of links to publicly available information we thought could assist you. These link were as follows:

- Regulatory Impact Statement: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/establishing-a-matariki-public-holiday-regulatory-impact-statement.pdf>

- Matariki dates (including methodology): <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/matariki-dates-2022-to-2052-matariki-advisory-group.pdf>
- Te Pire mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o Te Kāhui o Matariki /Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Bill: Approval for Introduction Cabinet Paper: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/te-pire-mo-te-hararei-tumatanui-o-te-ka-hui-o-matariki-te-ka-hui-o-matariki-public-holiday-bill-approval-for-introduction-proactiverelease-pdf.pdf>
- Te Pire mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o te Kāhui o Matariki/Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Bill — First Reading – Hansard: https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansDeb_20210930_20210930_20
- Matariki Advisory Group: Terms of Reference: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/15329-matariki-advisory-group-establishment-appointments-and-terms-of-reference-proactiverelease-pdf>
- Publicly available resources including presentations by Professor Rangi Mātāmua: <https://livingbythestars.co.nz/>
- Further resources relating to Matariki: <https://www.matariki.com/resources>

On 4 July 2024, we provided an update on your request. This email explained that as the Ministry had been gathering information for your refined request, it have noted that some of the information you requested also sits with Te Arawhiti and/or the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE). We also noted that the Matariki Advisory Group, who provided the Government advice on making Matariki a public holiday, was established by MBIE.

On 18 July 2024 we notified you of an extension to your request, until 13 August or earlier. This extension was required because consultations necessary to decide on your request were such that a proper response could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

Information being released

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Document Description
1	24 September 2021	AM2022/552 House Folder provided to Hon Kiri Allan for the First reading of Te Pire mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o te Kāhui o Matariki/Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Bill
2	10 March 2022	AM2022/118 House Folder provided to Hon Kiri Allan for the Second reading of Te Pire mō te Hararei Tūmatanui o te Kāhui o Matariki/Te Kāhui o Matariki Public Holiday Bill
3		Folder titles - Advice to Ministers relating to Matariki

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed above, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials
- Section 9(2)(h) – to maintain professional legal privilege

Substantial collation or research

There is additional information which could be covered by your request that I have decided to refuse under 18f of the OIA, as it cannot be made available without substantial collation or research. A search of the Manatū Toanga content management system shows at least 200 documents that would need to be reviewed. However, I have attached the titles of the folders these sit in. Please see document 3. After reviewing this response, we would be happy to work with you regarding what further material you would like.

If you wish to discuss this decision with us, please feel free to contact uia@mch.govt.nz.

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 via www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

s 9(2)(a)



Glenis Philip-Barbara

Pou Mataaho o Te Hononga - Deputy Secretary, Māori Crown Partnerships