

19 December 2025

By email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act 1982 Request– FMA CEO Leave

The FMA has received your Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) request on 15 December for:

1. *How many hours/days leave has chief executive Samantha Barrass taken in the last 12 months?*
2. *How many hours/days leave has Barrass taken over the course of her tenure?*
3. *Who signs off on the FMA CEO's annual leave*

OIA response

The FMA chief executive is contractually entitled to take up to five weeks of annual leave per year, and an additional forty hours of loyalty leave annually, as she has completed three years of service.

Leave taken in her time in the role has been within the contractual entitlement.

Consequentially the information requested under the first two parts of you request is withheld pursuant to OIA section 9(2)(a) - *to protect the privacy of natural persons*.

The FMA Board Chair approves the CEO's leave.

In making this decision we have considered the public interest in release of the information and have concluded that withholding the personal information is justified in this instance.

Questions

Please let me know if you have any questions about our decision under the Official Information Act. I also note that you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman regarding our assessment of your OIA request, in accordance with section 28 of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or phone 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Stewart
Internal Governance Contractor