

20 July 2026

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) which we received on Wednesday, 1 July 2026

You said:

- 1. It would seem self evident that knowing what a woman is would be important in your work. Therefore what is the Classification Office's working definition of a woman?*
- 2. Has the Classification Office undertaken any LGBTQIA+ training? If yes can I see a copy of the training material? Who provided the training and what was its cost?*
- 3. Has the Classification Office undertaken any LGBTQIA+ initiatives, programmes, funding or certification activities other than for training?*
- 4. Has the Classification Office partnered with any organisations to undertake an LGBTQIA+ training, initiatives, programmes, funding or certification activities? If yes who are these partners?*
- 5. Has the Classification Office paid any LGBTQIA+ organisations for 'policy consultation' work? If yes what was the organisation(s), what was the policy(s) and what did it cost?*
- 6. Does the Classification Office use intersectionality in any way. If yes what are the 'criteria' and how is it being used?*

Response to your request

As your request did not specify a time frame, we have answered your questions with available information from the last 10 years.

- 1. It would seem self evident that knowing what a woman is would be important in your work. Therefore what is the Classification Office's working definition of a woman?*

[The Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993](#) (the Classification Act) does not use the term Woman or Man (or Women/Men or Female/Male) and these terms are not included in the [section 2 - Interpretation](#) of the Classification Act.

Under the Classification Act, a publication is objectionable if it describes, depicts, expresses, or otherwise deals with matters such as sex, horror, crime, cruelty, or violence in such a manner that the availability of the publication is likely to be injurious to the public good. References to 'sex' in this section of the Classification Act relate to publications which describe, depict or otherwise deal with sexual activity. This interpretation is supported by court decisions.

We are required to consider a range of matters, including the extent and degree to which, and the manner in which, the publication represents (whether directly or by implication) that members of any particular class of the public are inherently inferior to other members of the public by reason of any characteristic of members of that class, being a characteristic that is a prohibited ground of discrimination specified in [section 21\(1\)](#) of the [Human Rights Act 1993](#).

2. *Has the Classification Office undertaken any LGBTQIA+ training? If yes can I see a copy of the training material? Who provided the training and what was its cost?*

No, the Classification Office has not undertaken any LGBTQIA+ training.

3. *Has the Classification Office undertaken any LGBTQIA+ initiatives, programmes, funding or certification activities other than for training?*

There have been no programmes, funding or certification activities specifically for LGBTQIA+ issues.

Last year, the Classification Office concluded the Historic Rainbow Publications Project. The historical review examined the classification of publications relating to rainbow content that had been restricted or banned by the Indecent Publications Tribunal. More information about this project is available on our website [here](#).

4. *Has the Classification Office partnered with any organisations to undertake an LGBTQIA+ training, initiatives, programmes, funding or certification activities? If yes who are these partners?*

No, the Classification has not partnered with organisations to undertake any LGBTQIA+ training initiatives, programmes, funding or certification activities.

The Classification Office is a paid member of Te Uru Tāngata – Centre for Workplace Inclusion. Our staff have not undertaken the accreditation programme.

5. Has the Classification Office paid any LBGTQIA+ organisations for 'policy consultation' work? If yes what was the organisation(s), what was the policy(s) and what did it cost?

No, the Classification Office has not paid any LBGTQIA+ organisations for 'policy consultation' work.

6. Does the Classification Office use intersectionality in any way. If yes what are the 'criteria' and how is it being used?

Our research on [Online Misogyny and Violent Extremism](#) (published in 2024) included the concept of [intersectional misogyny](#). This refers to the ways in which women experience compounded forms of discrimination based on factors such as race or ethnicity, religion, socioeconomic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, and/or disability. We used the term 'women' (and girls) in an inclusive manner in this research.

In our [youth and pornography research programme \(2018–2020\)](#) we spoke with young people about their experience with porn. The analysis of this research includes reference the demographic information provided, which included age, gender, sexuality, region and ethnicity.

Publication of response

This response may be published on the Classification Office's [website](#). If it is published there, your personal information will be redacted.

Right of review

You have the right to make a complaint and seek a review by the Ombudsman of this response under [section 28\(3\) of the OIA](#). Information about this process is available at [ombudsman.parliament.nz](#) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Thank you for your interest in our mahi.

Ngā mihi nui,

Te Mana Whakaatu—Classification Office