

WPQ 75515 (2024) – “What guidance, if any, has the Minister's departments, if any, given staff regarding attendance at Hikoi mō te Tiriti on 19 November 2024?”

1: Excerpt from the Leaders Update, sent 18th November

To share with your team

Hikoi Mō te Tiriti arrives in Wellington tomorrow

The Hikoi arrives in Wellington on Tuesday, 19 November. Indications suggest the event will be a peaceful.

Transport disruption in Wellington

Significant delays are expected when traveling into Wellington on 19 November. If necessary, please discuss with your people leader if you think this will affect you and consider working from home if that is the best option.

Maintaining political neutrality

Public servants have the same political rights and freedoms as all other New Zealanders. However, they also support their agency in maintaining political neutrality to serve the government of the day. Political neutrality does not prevent public servants from attending protests.

Read more on [Whatukura](#).

2: Intranet article, published 14th November

Hikoi Mō te Tiriti has travelled through Hamilton and ends its nine-day journey to Wellington on Tuesday, 19 November.

In Kirikiriroa, there is estimated to be 5,000 people gathering in Waikato Stadium's Mill Park Reserve before making their way to Garden Place.

In Wellington, The NZ Police are preparing for 25,000 attendees, while the organisers estimate up to 40,000 participants.

All indications suggest that the hikoi will be a peaceful event.

For more information on the hikoi, see this [RNZ article](#) [↗]. For Hamilton, please see [the Waikato Times article](#) [↗].

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Practical considerations when attending a protest

- Consider your personal capacity, as attendance must be in your own time.
- Remove any agency identity. Have no visible markers, lanyards, uniforms or name tags.
- Keep private social media activity separate from work.
- Avoid using agency resources, such as printers or stationery for posters.
- Consider the nature, scope and circumstances of the protest. Think about potential implications for public trust in the public service.
- Think about the seniority of your role. For example, consider the level of contact with ministers and if you are a public spokesperson.

Please speak to your leader if you have any questions. Learn more on political neutrality for public servants as individuals on [Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission's Ara Kaiarahitanga Leadership Development Centre](#) [↗].

You're also welcome to contact our local Integrity Champ, Michael Appleyard, if you have questions.