



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

5 DEC 2017

Dear [REDACTED]

On 25 September you emailed Housing New Zealand requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *When Housing New Zealand notified Ngā Potiki of the proposed transitional housing proposal at 45 Opal Drive Papamoa;*
- *When Housing New Zealand provided Ngā Potiki with the resource consent application;*
- *All communications with Ngā Potiki concerning a cultural impact assessment for the Opal Drive project, including emails and meeting notes; and*
- *A copy of Ngā Potiki response to the resource consent application and their cultural impact assessment (CIA).*

On 19 October 2017, your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development, as Housing New Zealand does not hold the information requested.

The development at 45 Opal Drive will provide much needed housing for local people in urgent need of somewhere to stay. These are families who want to live quietly and safely while they're helped to find more permanent accommodation.

Housing New Zealand, which is the build partner for Opal Drive, first met with representatives of Ngā Potiki on 8 September regarding the transitional housing development. The Ministry takes seriously its obligations to work with iwi on all relevant projects and as such, the Ministry of Social Development had been in contact with Ngā Potiki since late June.

The consultation with Ngā Potiki regarding the development at 45 Opal Drive did not require the Ministry to provide Ngā Potiki with the resource consent application and as such this did not occur.

Similarly, the Ministry was advised by Tauranga City Council that the resource consent for this project did not require a formal cultural impact assessment. As such, no such assessment was carried out.

Your requests for the date on which Ngā Potiki was provided with the resource consent application, correspondence regarding a cultural impact assessment, and Ngā Potiki's response to this assessment, are therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

The resource consent process is administered by local authorities. For further information regarding this process, I recommend that you contact the Tauranga City Council, who administered the resource consent process for the 45 Opal Drive development.

During the course of the development of this site, a shell midden was identified. On discovery of this midden, an archaeologist was brought in to examine the site working with a cultural monitor from Ngā Potiki. The archaeologist found that the midden had been re-deposited, possibly from a neighbouring property, and therefore had no archaeological value. Following a thorough examination of the site, the archaeologist further found that the land on the site had been subject to significant prior modification and there is therefore a very low possibility of encountering intact archaeological features. If such features are identified, all work will halt pending a further archaeological assessment.

Following the advice of the archaeologist, Ngā Potiki provided a blessing to the site and it was agreed that a cultural monitor would be on site when earthworks recommenced.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Scott Gallacher  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Housing**