



12 JUN 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 14 May 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The level of funding used by Office of Disability Issues to purchase New Zealand Sign Language interpreting services from Connect Interpreters.*

On 22 May 2018, you emailed the Ministry advising that your request was refined to information related to the number of bookings that the Office for Disability Issues has made with Connect Interpreting, and the amount of funding used to pay for these bookings. You advised that the time frame for your request is 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017.

Connect Interpreters services would have been used during this timeframe for any meetings where a deaf person who uses New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) as their primary language was in attendance, and interpreters were not available through iSign. As you are aware, NZSL interpreter services are necessary to allow the deaf person to participate in the meeting.

Between 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017, the Office for Disability Issues has made seven bookings with Connect Interpreting, which cost a total of \$17,408.63, excluding GST.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Office for Disability Issues, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Jacinda Keith
Acting Director, Office for Disability Issues

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