



24 MAY 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 26 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, documents discussing universal basic income initiatives. On 3 May 2018 you refined your request to the following:

- *Firstly, I would be happy to receive only documents from 2008 onwards. If there are major reports by MSD staff that are predominately about the costs and benefits of a UBI that were written from 2000-2008, I would appreciate a list of the titles of these reports.*
- *Secondly, I am particularly interested in any reports or briefings that were sent to your Minister on the topic of Universal Basic Income schemes. Also, if there are any summary reports, written by MSD staff, that estimate the costs and benefits of introducing a UBI scheme in New Zealand, I would be interested in reading these (even if the report did not go to the Minister).*
- *Thirdly, I am not interested in papers which are predominately economic theory or modelling. Similarly, reports or briefings that merely mention the idea of a UBI are not of any interest.*

A keyword search has been conducted and all relevant business units consulted regarding your request. I can confirm that no reports or briefings solely regarding universal basic income have been created by the Ministry. As such your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

It is likely that the Ministry has included discussion of this subject within documents about other issues. You have stated that you are not interested in reports or briefings that merely mention the idea of a universal basic income. Additionally, to find such references Ministry staff would have to assess thousands of documents. Any request for such a thorough search would likely be refused as the greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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,

Page 1 of 2

- 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 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 documents about universal basic income initiatives, 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



Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services