



16 December 2021

Tēnā koe

On 28 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), 31 reports relating to a variety of topics, such as the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy, Mana in Mahi and the Social Security Appeal.

The following 25 documents are released to you under the Act:

Report Number	Title
REP/21/3/167	Mana in Mahi Progress Report End February 2021
REP/21/3/209	Update on phase two of the Independent Children's Monitor
REP/21/3/166	Activation of the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy March 2021 Scheme - dated 28 February 2021
REP/21/2/125	Operational settings for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy March 2021 Scheme - dated 2 March 2021
REP/21/2/095	Establishing the Abatement Threshold Increase (Transitional Assistance) Programme 2021 - dated 2 March 2021
REP/21/3/208	Funding to implement a Court of Appeal decision on the Means Assessment for Long-term Aged Residential Care initiative - dated 5 March 2021
REP/21/3/207	Cabinet discussion on change in Alert Levels: implications for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy March 2021- dated 5 March 2021
REP/21/3/214	Update on Auditor-General's Performance Audit of the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy - dated 5 March 2021

REP/21/3/232	Addressing Debt to Government – Update – dated 11 March 2021
REP/21/3/244	Supporting Tourism Reliant Communities Through 2021 – dated 12 March 2021
REP/21/3/181	Update on work to reform financial assistance and support for caregivers – dated 16 March 2021
REP/21/3/250	Strengthening Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Programme - monthly progress report - February 2021 – dated 17 March 2021
REP/21/3/292	Correction to the debt figures in Addressing Debt to Government – Update – dated 24 March 2021
REP/21/3/319	Update: Inter-agency response to homelessness in Rotorua – dated 30 March 2021
REP/21/3/327	Response to Auditor-General's Performance Audit of the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy – dated 1 April 2021
REP/21/4/344	Cabinet Priorities Committee: Immigration portfolio priorities and strategy session – dated 1 April 2021
REP/21/3/285	Emergency Housing: Ministry of Social Development practice – dated – 1 April 2021
REP/21/3/315	Family Violence Prevention Campaign - Responding to the needs of young people – dated 8 April 2021
REP/21/4/341	Responding to feedback from the business community on the COVID-19 Resurgence Schemes – dated 12 April 2021
REP/21/3/342	Establishing the amended COVID-19 New Zealanders Stranded Overseas Support Programme – dated 13 April 2021
REP/21/4/346	Report back to Cabinet on Budget 2019 sexual violence funding implementation – dated 15 April 2021
REP/21/4/374	Christchurch Mosques Attack Amendment to extend the Welfare Programme for a further 12 months – dated 19 April 2021
REP/21/3/279	Supporting Deportees in the Community – dated 20 April 2021
REP/21/4/417	Proposed immediate actions to address urgent homelessness and motel use issues in Rotorua – dated 23 April 2021
REP/21/4/395	Vote Social Development Final Estimates 2021/22 and Supplementary Estimates 2020/21 – dated 28 April 2021

Five reports you requested are already publicly available. You can find these reports at the following links:

- *REP/21/2/153 - Publication of two reports: Mana in Mahi Phase One (prototype) formative and process evaluation:* www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/mana-in-mahi/index.html#:~:text=Mana%20in%20Mahi%20%E2%80%93%20Strength%20in,young%20people%20in%20New%20Zealand.&text=These%20evaluation%20reports%20helped%20shape,Mana%20in%20Mahi%20Phase%20Two.
- *REP/21/4/369 - Changes to Emergency Benefits for temporary visa holders in the context of Trans-Tasman quarantine-free travel:* www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2021/june/20210624-request-for-report-changes-to-emergency-benefits-for-temporary-visa-holders-in-the-context-of-trans-tasman-quarantine-free-travel-.pdf.
- *REP/21/4/423 - Joint Report - Budget 2021 Main Benefit Increase - Background Material for Communication Material:* www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2021/budget-2021-msd-main-benefit-increase-release.html
- *REP/21/4/383 - Joint Report - Working for Families Review - Revised Recommendations and REP/21/4/356 - Joint Report - Welfare Overhaul: Working for Families Review:* www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2021/september/20210916-request-for-information-on-the-review-of-the-current-upcoming-accommodation-supplement-and-on-the-working-for-families-review-that-the-government-has-signaled..pdf

You will note that the names and details of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Further information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

You will also note that some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(k) of the Act, in order to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage. This is because information released under the Act may end up in the public domain, for example, on websites including the Ministry's own website.

Please note that *REP/21/2/125* references an affiliation date for Callaghan Innovations in paragraph 34, and that Ministers have agreed to drop the requirement for firms who were affiliated with Callaghan Innovations before 17 March 2020.

The Ministry recommends that you review the following document published on the Treasury's website in reference to *REP/21/4/395* at the following link: www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/budgets/vote-information?vote=1676&year=6493.

Please note that in *REP/21/4/417*, the COVID-19 motel contracts located in footnote 2 on page 1 have been extended to October 2021.

Please note that *REP/21/3/250* contains information that may be out of date as progress on this work has since been made.

Please note, *REP/20/11/1079 - Social Security Appeal Authority case - recommended next steps to address issues raised* is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

For clarity, *REP/20/11/1079* was withdrawn, and the information in this paper was used to form another report. This document is also withheld in full, including the title of the document, under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is also still under active consideration.

In the spirit of being helpful, the Ministry recommends that you review the following Cabinet papers that relate to some of the reports released to you in this response:

- *REP/21/3/208 - Funding to implement a Court of Appeal decision on the Means Assessment for Long-term Aged Residential Care initiative:* www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2021/paper-implementing-the-court-of-appeal-judgment-on-the-means-assessment-for-long-term-aged-residential-care.pdf
- *REP/21/4/342 - Establishing the amended COVID-19 New Zealanders Stranded Overseas Support Programme:*
 - www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/legislation/notice-of-change/2021/stranded-overseas.html
 - www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2021/extending-the-covid-19-new-zealanders-stranded-overseas-support-programme.html

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.

The 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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attached documents on the Ministry'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, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial & Executive Services