



17 DEC 2021

Tēnā koe

On 21 and 23 October 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Can you please confirm for me what the nature of the relationship between MSD and Male Survivors Aotearoa is?*
- 2. Also I have it confirmed from correspondence that the Board chair and MSA have been corresponding/communicating with MSD. Please provide this correspondence as soon as possible.*
- 3. I would like to also know whether the suggestion of moving client files to MSA was approved by MSD.*
- 4. This is an extract from correspondence from the board trust. Can you please advise what information was supplied by MSA, and what the shared concerns are? And what information do you have on the "no surprises" arrangement referred to?*

Pursuant to the "no surprises" arrangement with MSA, the MOSAIC Chair wrote to the MSA Board to update them on the Board's concerns in respect of MAT. MSA informed the Ministry of Social Development ("MSD"). Both MSA and MSD shared the Board's concerns.

- 5. What business/involvement does MSA have in relation to a contract between MSD and Mosaic?*

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will address your questions in turn:

- 1. Can you please confirm for me what the nature of the relationship between MSD and Male Survivors Aotearoa is?*

The Ministry funds Male Survivors Aotearoa (MSA) to support their work as a national body, representing the national interests of its member organisations and providing a national voice for the male survivors of sexual abuse in New Zealand. The Ministry has

a close working relationship with MSA to ensure they are meeting the deliverables of their contract, as well as to understand the current issues and opportunities for the sector.

2. *Also I have it confirmed from correspondence that the Board chair and MSA have been corresponding/communicating with MSD. Please provide this correspondence as soon as possible.*

This information has already been provided to you in your request dated 2 September 2021.

3. *I would like to also know whether the suggestion of moving client files to MSA was approved by MSD.*

Client files are private and must be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020, as such it was MOSAIC's responsibility to manage this information in line with the Act and any Act and Accreditation standard requirements. The Ministry was aware that MOSAIC's Board Chair had requested MSA hold any remaining client files but did not take part in any of the decision-making process.

Please see enclosed the following document, which outlines the request by MOSAIC's Board Chair for MSA to hold any remaining client files, MSA's acceptance of this request and the direction by the Board Chair to MOSAIC staff to transition files to MSA.

Email: RE: Formal request to MSA board to securely store Mosaic client files, dated 17 September 2021.

Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

As you have clarified that you do not require the names of staff members, this information has been withheld under 'Out of Scope'.

4. *This is an extract from correspondence from the board trust. Can you please advise what information was supplied by MSA, and what the shared concerns are? And what information do you have on the "no surprises" arrangement referred to?*

Pursuant to the "no surprises" arrangement with MSA, the MOSAIC Chair wrote to the MSA Board to update them on the Board's concerns in respect of MAT. MSA informed the Ministry of Social Development ("MSD"). Both MSA and MSD shared the Board's concerns.

On 13 December 2021, the Ministry emailed you requesting the full context of the extract provide. On the same day you replied saying you do not think the Ministry requires further context.

For the sake of clarity, I will address question four in two parts.

- *Can you please advise what information was supplied by MSA, and what the shared concerns are?*

The Ministry has answered this part of the question, in our response to your request dated 2 September 2021.

- *And what information do you have on the "no surprises" arrangement referred to?*

The Ministry is unable to comment on this part of question four. This is because your request refers to a small extract from agreements between third-party organisations, and it is impossible to say whether the Ministry holds any relevant information. Any response would be speculative.

Questions which require the agency to form an opinion or provide an explanation and to create new information to answer the request are not a request for official information, however, the Ministry endeavours to answer these as best as we can.

I am satisfied that we have made a reasonable attempt to clarify the request, but you have refused our assistance. This is not a request for official information under section 12 of the Act as it is not made with due particularity. For these reasons, I am unable to answer this part of your request and will take no further action at this time.

5. *What business/involvement does MSA have in relation to a contract between MSD and Mosaic?*

MSA has not had any involvement regarding the contract between the Ministry and MOSAIC.

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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 MOSAIC, 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

PP 

Mark Henderson
General Manager
Maori Communities and Partnerships