



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

03 FEB 2021

On 16 December 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The costs involved to the tax payer in regard to Christmas parties this year and whether this is directly funding parties or allowing staff paid time off.*

The Ministry contributes up to \$20 per person for the purpose of attending an end-of-year Christmas function. The \$20 contribution is a one-off payment and is not an allowance. It is not available for consultants and contractors or for staff not attending the organised function/event. This one-off payment commenced in the 2001/2002 financial year, and has not be changed since this time.

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 available to the wider public. 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 in relation to the costs concerning Christmas parties this year, 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

Ranjit Singh
Group GM Finance and Chief Financial Officer
Chief Information Office National Office