



3 March 2022

Tēnā koe

On 2 September 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Information regarding my request on the points below:*
- *Part 2: Procurement and Evaluation Plan Document- Optical Goods and Services dated 30 August 2013*
 - *3.1 Background (Page 6)*

The background describes previous work done by MSD and the review by PMMS on the procurement of optical goods and services (page 6). Would it be possible to request these both documents under OIA.
 - *8.5 Communication with respondents during recruitment process (Page 14)*

A tender briefing session was held and according to the document was to be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. I could not find the video on YouTube. Can I request a copy of it and/or minutes from the session.
- *Part 3:*
 - *Appendix 7 (Page 11). Can MSD confirm the source of the appendix 7- Optical Goods and Services- Clinical Assessment (Eye Examination) as there were no subject matter experts that were consulted according to the documents received.*
- *Part 4:*
 - *Preferred supplier arrangements for whiteware and optical products funded through hardship assistance. Report to Hon Paula Bennett*
 - *4. Background (Page 25), Point 9*
 - *MSD identified various goods and services that may be suitable for a preferred supplier arrangement. Can I request information*

on the amount spent in these areas (one to two years) prior to the implementation of the preferred supplier arrangement for these areas and the amount spent (for MSD client financial support) in the healthcare areas (e.g dentistry and audiology) for the same period (and one to two years after the implementation of the optical goods agreement/ approximately 2014 and 2015)

On 17 September 2021, the Ministry advised you that more time was needed for your request in order to collate the material requested and assess whether any interest might be prejudiced by its release. The Ministry extended the due date of the request to 2 November 2021.

On 2 November 2021, the Ministry sent you a Notification of Decision on your request. I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information.

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will address each part of your request in turn.

- *The background describes previous work done by MSD and the review by PMMS on the procurement of optical goods and services (page 6). Would it be possible to request these both documents under OIA.*

Please find attached the following documents, which have been identified as being in scope of your request:

- *Category Review: Optical, dated 26 September 2012*
- *PMMS consulting group - High Level Category Analysis and Procurement Strategy Category: OPTICAL, December 2022*

Please note, that the report - Category Review: Optical, dated 26 September 2012 was a draft.

Also note that some information has been deemed to be 'out of scope' of your request, as this information related to Ministry staff names who are below tier 4 and/or who are not decision-makers.

Please also note that the names and contact 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.

- *A tender briefing session was held and according to the document was to be recorded and uploaded to YouTube. I could not find the video on YouTube. Can I request a copy of it and/or minutes from the session.*

Ministry staff were unable to locate any evidence of a recording. However, please find attached a copy of the supplier presentation outline:

- *Request for Proposal: Optical Goods and Services - A Briefing for Interested Providers, dated 6 September 2013*
- *Can MSD confirm the source of the appendix 7- Optical Goods and Services- Clinical Assessment (Eye Examination) as there were no subject matter experts that were consulted according to the documents received.*

The Ministry can confirm that the source of the eye examination work was through the NZ Association of Optometrists, where the working group put together a subject matter working group to ensure the Ministry had the right coverage.

- *MSD identified various goods and services that may be suitable for a preferred supplier arrangement. Can I request information on the amount spent in these areas (one to two years) prior to the implementation of the preferred supplier arrangement for these areas and the amount spent (for MSD client financial support) in the healthcare areas (e.g dentistry and audiology) for the same period (and one to two years after the implementation of the optical goods agreement/ approximately 2014 and 2015)*

The Ministry has interpreted this as a request for the amount spent on whiteware, optical, dentures and hearing aid hardship payments for the calendar years 2012 to 2015.

Please note the Ministry only holds Preferred Supplier Agreements for whiteware and optical goods. There are no agreements in place for dentistry and audiology.

Please see enclosed **Appendix A** which contains the following tables:

- **Table One:** The total number and amount of hardship payments for whiteware (washing machine and fridges) granted from February 2012 and December 2015, by year of grant.
- **Table Two:** The total amount and the number of hardships for glasses and contact lenses granted during the period February 2012 and December 2015, by year of grant.
- **Table Three:** The total amount and the number of hardships for dentures and hearing aids granted during the period February 2012 and December 2015, by year of grant.

- 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'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 information about the Ministry's preferred supplier agreement for the provision of glasses by optical suppliers, 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



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