



16 May 2022

Tēnā koe

On 16 April 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- All advice, analyses and recommendations the Ministry of Social Development have produced or received (regardless or not whether they were provided to Government Ministers) regarding sanctions (inclusive of all sanction types) on income support recipients since 1 January 2022.

On 26 April 2022, the Ministry contacted you to clarify and refine your request. You responded with the following:

- *I would like to read any advice, assessments, analyses and recommendations MSD have produced or received regarding sanctions on income support payments. This only needs to be the final iteration of such documents and does not include associated communication/correspondence.*

I am also interested if the Government is receiving advice on sanctions, and if they are, what the status and progress of their work programme is.

One document has been identified in scope of your request:

- REP/22/3/146 - Report - *Resetting the foundations of the welfare system: Update and next steps* – dated 4 March 2022.

This report is withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. Work regarding resetting the foundations of the welfare system is ongoing, therefore it would not be appropriate to release information regarding this work 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.

In the spirit of being helpful, I can confirm that the report REP/22/3/146 is a paper related to the welfare overhaul work programme. Further detail can be found in the Welfare Overhaul Work Programme Update Cabinet paper linked below. This Cabinet paper provides an update on the progress made on the welfare overhaul work programme agreed by Cabinet in November 2019 and signals priorities for progressing key initiatives through a renewed work programme to continue overhauling the welfare system.

The Welfare Overhaul Work Programme Update Cabinet paper and associated appendices are available on the Ministry's website, here:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2021/welfare-overhaul-work-programme-update.html.

You also requested information on the progress of advice on sanctions in the welfare overhaul work programme. We refer you to the following written parliamentary questions which provide some context to their progress.

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_12551_2022/12551-2022-ricardo-men%C3%A9ndez-march-to-the-minister-for

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_10812_2022/10812-2022-karen-chhour-to-the-minister-for-social-development

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 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 blue ink that reads "Christian Opetiaia". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Christian Opetiaia
Welfare System, Policy Manager