



17 November 2022

Tēnā koe

On 18 October 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Would it be acceptable to simply request the most recent substantive report containing advice on the overall funding of OCC?*

Two reports were found to be in scope of your request. These documents, including their titles, are withheld in full under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. 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, the Ministry has identified the following documents relating to Budget 2022:

- REP/22/2/081 – Aide-mémoire – *Budget 2022 Bilateral*, dated 22 February 2022
- REP/22/4/316 – Aide-mémoire – *Vote Social Development – Budget 2022 information to support Cabinet discussions*, dated 8 April 2022.

Both of these documents cover a range of topics relating to Budget 2022 that are outside the scope of your request. To expedite a response, I have excerpted sections of the documents that relate to funding of the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) below. Please contact the Ministry if this was not the intent of your request.

REP/22/2/081 excerpt:

***Transition to new Children and Young People's Commission
(\$1.640m over one year)***

- Funding is required to address the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) existing critical cost pressures, and those

associated with transitioning into the Children and Young People's Commission this year

- These include a significant volume increase in the number of sites the OCC is required to monitor under the Optional Protocol for Crimes Against Torture, costs for establishing and maintaining a new Board, other changes to its legislation, and associated staff changes.

REP/22/4/316 excerpt:

Crown entities

- **Children's Commissioner – Cost pressures** (\$1.640m for one year). The funding addresses the Children's Commissioner's existing critical cost pressures and those associated with transitioning into the Children and Young People's Commission this year. These include a significant volume increase in the number of sites the Children's Commissioner is required to monitor under the United Nations Convention against Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), costs for establishing and maintaining a new Board, increases in rent and staffing costs, and the management of a change process required as part of the proposed legislative changes in the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki and Children and Young People's Commission Bill.

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 regarding recent reports that address funding for the OCC, 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, appearing to read 'Claire Janes'.

Claire Janes
Manager Budget and Crown Entities