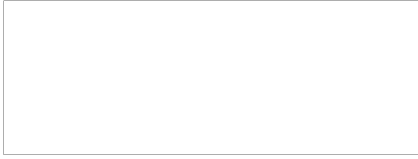




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

20 SEP 2016



Dear 

On 2 June 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of the full practice review into involvement of Child, Youth and Family with the children involved in the death Arun Kumar.*

Firstly I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your request. As you will appreciate, the amount of sensitive information regarding the two individuals and their whānau needed to be extensively assessed to protect their privacy.

The Office of the Chief Social Worker conducts practice reviews of significant cases in order to enable Child, Youth and Family to learn and where necessary amend its processes and professional practice.

In his review of the case management of the two young people involved in the tragic death of Mr Arun Kumar, the Chief Social Worker, Paul Nixon identified four themes:

- Planned, integrated, comprehensive and well informed assessment was absent for both boys. This significantly affected the quality of subsequent decision-making, planning and intervention. Assessment of the needs, strengths and risks for children must include those providing care of them (the kaitiaki mokopuna component of the Tuituia assessment).
- Agencies worked largely within their own silos – collective effort and action was missing. Consequently information was not shared in a timely or purposeful way; there was no sense of shared responsibility and no collective understanding of the lives of the two boys and what was required to bring about change.
- The boys' behaviour was not recognised as a risk of harm and caregiver capacity was not considered. Care or protection is about more than abuse and neglect – a willing caregiver unable to manage a child with challenging behaviours is unable to provide safe care. There was poor communication and joint working between the care and protection and youth justice teams within Child, Youth and Family. This resulted in missed opportunities to share information, agree case direction and clarify roles and responsibilities.
- Supervision that supports critical thinking and reflection; provides both support and challenge; ensures competent and accountable practice was not consistently available or provided for the social workers and supervisors working with the two boys.

The Practice Review contains a lot of personal information about the lives of the two boys and the need to protect their privacy outweighs the public interest in the report.

I have withheld the report 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.

The purpose of the practice review is to allow the Office of the Chief Social Worker to assess the processes and professional practice of Child, Youth and Family in a free and frank manner. The advice is provided in confidence. The quality and content of the advice outweighs the public interest for this information.

Information for the review was gathered from the young people, other agencies and staff. The information provided was given in confidence. As such, it has been assessed that a large part of the review would be withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act.

I believe the public interest has been met with the release of the *'Practice Review – young people involved in the death of Mr Kumar'*, dated 13 May 2016, that was provided to you by Minister Tolley, 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 after ten working days. 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.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Murray Edridge

Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family