



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

26 SEP 2016

Dear

On 24 August 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of any reports, briefings and advice prepared by the Office for Disability Issues on the Special Education Update, since 1 January 2015;*
- *A copy of any correspondence, including e-mails, between the Office for Disability Issues and the Ministry of Education regarding the Special Education Update, since 1 January 2015;*
- *A copy of any correspondence, including e-mails, between the Office for Disability Issues and any ministerial office regarding the Special Education Update, since 1 January 2015;*

As you are aware, the Learning Support Update (previously known as Special Education) is a Ministry of Education led initiative, working with sector partners to strengthen inclusion and modernise how learning support is delivered across the education sector. Further information about the initiative and supporting documentation in scope of your request has been published by the Ministry of Education and available at: <http://www.education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/specific-initiatives/special-education-update/>

Your request for information is refused in full. I have identified one email titled '*IN CONFIDENCE: Draft Cabinet paper*', dated 23 May 2016, in which the Ministry was consulted with and provided input into the draft Cabinet paper. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

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 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.

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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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'RS', written over a faint, illegible stamp or watermark.

Rachel Sutherland
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services