



02 JUL 2021

Tēnā koe

On 14 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Any internal communications at a senior leadership level (your discretion to define this) that discuss the decision to suspend the processing of data matched files with the IRD when MSD had to divert resources to administer the wage subsidy in 2020 (time frame; 60 days before the date the decision was finalised and 30 days after this date).*
- 2. Any representations/official briefings MSD provided to any Government Minister about the decision to suspend the processing of data matched files with the IRD.*
- 3. Any documents (in their final form) that identify risks of suspending the processing of data match files with the IRD (time frame; 60 days before the date the decision was finalised and 30 days after this date).*

On 14 June 2021, the Ministry emailed you to extend the timeframe for response under section 15(1) and 15A of the Act. You were advised that you would receive a response by no later than 8 July 2021.

The Ministry will answer your questions in turn.

- 1. Any internal communications at a senior leadership level (your discretion to define this) that discuss the decision to suspend the processing of data matched files with the IRD when MSD had to divert resources to administer the wage subsidy in 2020 (time frame; 60 days before the date the decision was finalised and 30 days after this date).*

For this part of your request, the Ministry has defined 'Senior Leadership' to be General Manager level and above. As such, please find four emails enclosed in this response.

Employee names below the level of General Manager have been redacted as 'Out of Scope'. Furthermore, emails between staff below General Manager level have also been deemed to be out of scope of your request.

- 2. Any representations/official briefings MSD provided to any Government Minister about the decision to suspend the processing of data matched files with the IRD.*

3. Any documents (in their final form) that identify risks of suspending the processing of data match files with the IRD (time frame; 60 days before the date the decision was finalised and 30 days after this date.

The following Cabinet paper has been determined to be in scope of questions two and three of your request. Please find this Cabinet paper enclosed in this response.

- *Impact of COVID-19 on the Ministry of Social Development's Operating Model*

Please note that the Ministry has withheld all information that is not relevant to your request as out of scope. If you would like to view the rest of the document, please see the following link where the Cabinet paper has been made publicly available:

covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release/Impact-of-COVID-19-on-the-Ministry-of-Social-Developments-Operating-Model-Paper.pdf

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 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.

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



George Van Ooyen
Group General Manager
Client Service Support

Out of Scope

From: Warren Hudson <warren.hudson001@msd.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2020 12:57 PM

Out of Scope

Subject: RE: LT action from this evening's meeting

Hi, will this suffice:

- We are suspending processing of the Inland Revenue Information Share (IRIS) over the coming months. This share allows us to check whether the income a client has declared aligns with information held by IR based on PAYE data. Suspending this share will reduce the establishment of overpayments by around \$3.6m per month.

W

Warren Hudson | General Manager, Integrity and Debt
Service Delivery

Out of Scope

MSD Purpose: We help New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent | Manaaki tangata, manaaki whanau .

From: Karen Bishop

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2020 12:13 PM

Out of Scope

Subject: RE: LT action from this evening's meeting

Thanks

Out of Scope

Warren, see below, could someone just provide a bit more detail on the debt/fraud activities we've stopped?

Thanks,

Karen

Out of Scope

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2020 12:10 PM

Out of Scope

Subject: RE: LT action from this evening's meeting

Out of Scope



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



Out of Scope

Out of Scope

Out of Scope

From: Warren Hudson

Sent: Tuesday, 17 March 2020 10:42 AM

Out of Scope

Subject: FW: Next steps

Hi Out of Scope

See below

Out of Scope

Also Out of Scope your taking on this work also needs to link in with stopping Out of Scope IRIS work – part of the plan that is still being finalised.

So a few moving parts.

Out of Scope

- FYI

Warren Hudson | General Manager, Integrity and Debt
Service Delivery

Out of Scope

MSD Purpose: We help New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent | Manaaki tangata, manaaki whanau .

Out of Scope

From: Warren Hudson

Out of Scope

Sent: Tuesday, 24 March 2020 11:58 AM

Out of Scope

Subject: RE: For urgent review: Cabinet paper on changes to MSD's operating model

Hi

This paper doesn't reference our ceasing some integrity related information sharing / data matching activity. It probably needs to

W

Warren Hudson | General Manager, Integrity and Debt

Service Delivery

Out of Scope

MSD Purpose: We help New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent | Manaaki tangata, manaaki whanau .

From: Karen Bishop

Out of Scope

Subject: RE: For urgent review: Cabinet paper on changes to MSD's operating model



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE HĀNATŪ WHAKAHIATO ŌRA



Out of Scope

Out of Scope

From: Warren Hudson

Sent: Monday, 23 March 2020 8:35 AM

Out of Scope

Subject: Decision to stop other datamatch work

Hi all

We have been making decisions about work we are stopping **Out of Scope** is keen to have this recorded in one place. Can you please complete the table below for your areas – not heaps of info required.

Out of can you please coordinate bringing this info into the table below. Can we have this info collated by CoP tomorrow please.

Thanks

Warren

Action	Description	Impact	From when	Recommencement options / issues
Cease actioning IRIS share				

Out of Scope



Warren Hudson | General Manager, Integrity and Debt
Service Delivery

Out of Scope



MSD Purpose: We help New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent | Manaaki tangata, manaaki whanau .

Budget Sensitive

Chair


Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response

IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT'S OPERATING MODEL


Proposal

- 1 This paper discusses a number of changes the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is making to its operating model to manage demand for services, and ensure the health and safety of clients and staff, in response to the unprecedented impact of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus).

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



Out of Scope



17 MSD has also decided to suspend work on the following:

9(2)(k)

17.3 processing of the Inland Revenue Information Share, which allows MSD to check whether the income a client has declared aligns with information held by Inland Revenue based on PAYE data¹

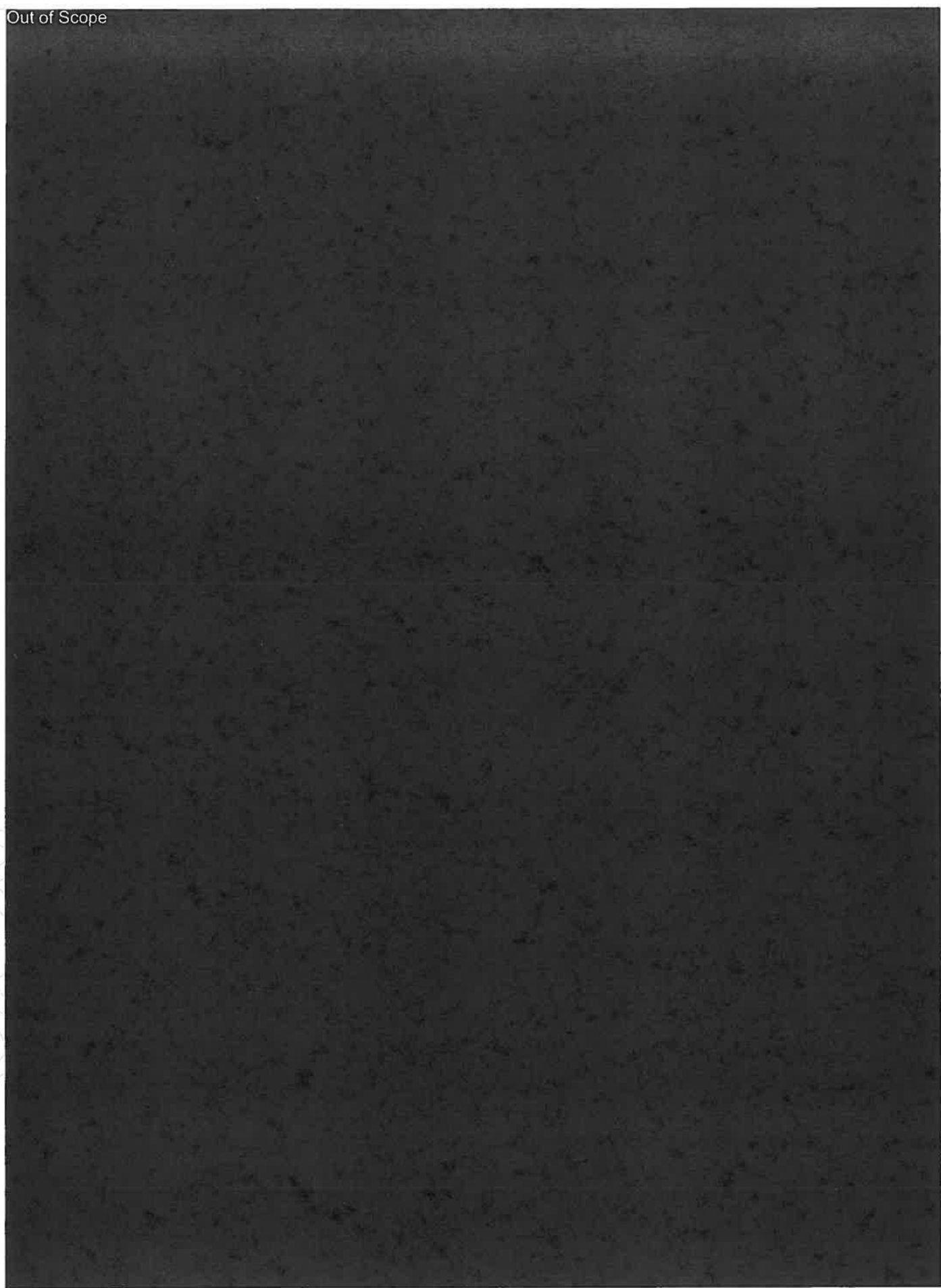
Out of Scope

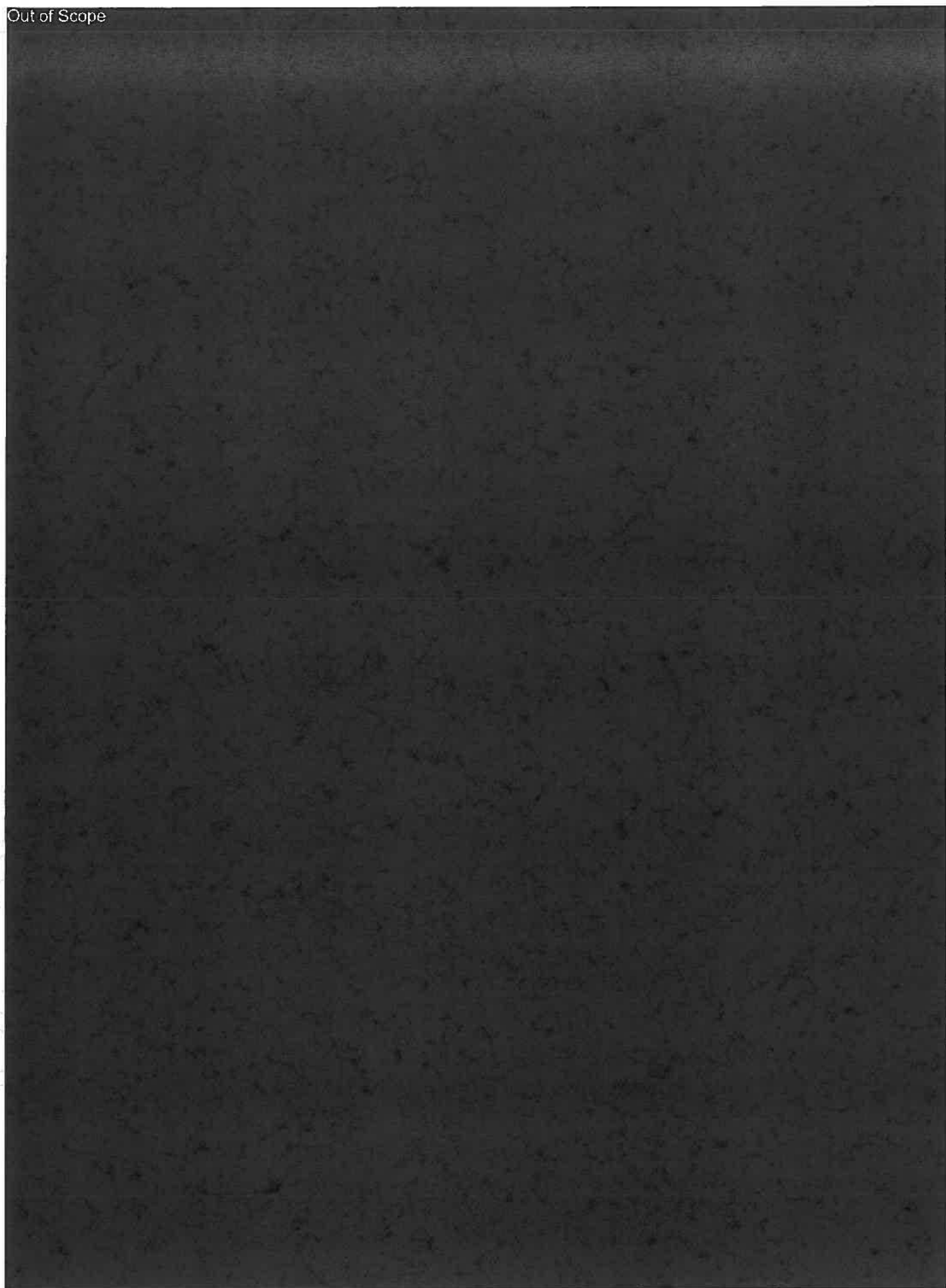
Out of Scope

¹ Suspending this share is estimated to reduce the establishment of overpayments by around \$3.6m per month.

² Out of Scope

Out of Scope





Out of Scope

Out of Scope

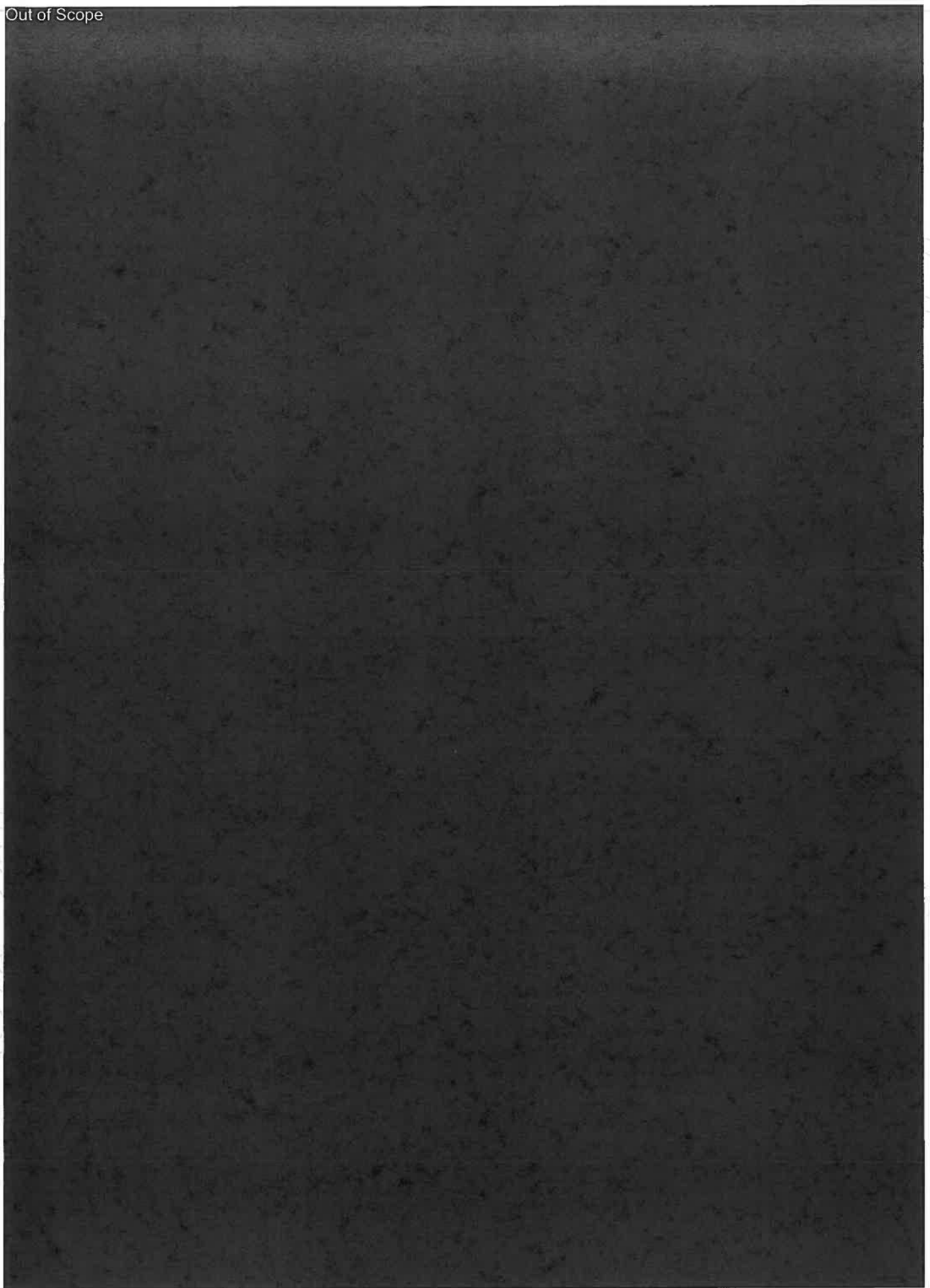


Out of Scope



CONFIDENTIAL

Out of Scope



55

(b) (5) DPP

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



(b) (5)

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



(U) (R)

Out of Scope



Out of Scope



Out of Scope



Authorised for lodgement

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development