



16 JUL 2021

Tēnā koe

On 20 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Please advise why your web (<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/index.html>) only lists SpecSavers as the preferred supplier for glasses?*
- 2. Don't you have other preferred suppliers or are SpecSavers the 'preferred' preferred supplier?*
- 3. I would like a copy of all the correspondence used to decide what went in to this What's new for 1 June 2021.*

The Ministry has arrangements with certain optometrists and opticians to aid with glasses and eye tests. These are called 'preferred suppliers.' The Ministry has a panel of four preferred suppliers which are Specsavers, Independent Optometry Group (Visique), John O'Connor Optometrists and Eyepro Marketing Limited, who are selected through an open tender process. The most recent tender process concluded in May 2021.

Specsavers was the only preferred supplier listed on the Ministry's MAP communications page due to a clerical error. This page has since been updated. You can find a list of the Ministry's preferred suppliers for glasses broken down by region at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/health-and-disability/glasses-suppliers/](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/health-and-disability/glasses-suppliers/)

You may note that there are other suppliers listed in the above link. This is because the Independent Optometry Group and Eyepro represent a number of optometrists who trade under their own name.

In regard to question three of your request, the Ministry does not hold any correspondence in regard to what was posted in the 'Whats new for 1 June 2021'. This site was a free text space and therefore was written straight into the page. As such question three of your request has been refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

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 available to the wider public. 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.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Harry Lotz  
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