



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

30 JUL 2021

Dear

On 3 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Copies of any communications you have sent to suppliers or contractors asking whether they meet the definition of a Māori business;*
- *Copies of any communications you have sent to suppliers or contractors advising them of the requirements of the Progressive Procurement Policy;*
- *The number/value of contracts your agency has terminated because a supplier or contractor didn't meet the definition of a Māori business since the Progressive Procurement Policy came into force;*
- *The number/value of contracts your agency has signed with Māori businesses since the Progressive Procurement Policy came into force.*

The Progressive Procurement policy aims to increase the diversity of suppliers engaging with government procurement opportunities, initially by focusing on Māori businesses. The policy does not terminate existing contracts with suppliers.

Departments are now required to report on the target of 5 percent of the total number of buyer (mandated government agencies) procurement contracts awarded to Māori businesses. In order to do this, departments have been seeking information from suppliers to identify those that are a Māori business.

Government agencies must increase the diversity of suppliers by changing their practices to increase procurement opportunities for Māori businesses. This approach aims to improve Māori participation in the economy and improve economic and social outcomes for the wider community.

As at 1 July 2021, the Ministry has started collecting this information as part of the Progressive Procurement Policy. More information on this can found at the following link: www.tpk.govt.nz/en/a-matou-kaupapa/maori-economic-resilience/progressive-procurement/buyers-government-agencies

For the sake of clarity, I will respond to each of your questions in turn:

- *Copies of any communications you have sent to suppliers or contractors asking whether they meet the definition of a Māori business;*
- *Copies of any communications you have sent to suppliers or contractors advising them of the requirements of the Progressive Procurement Policy.*

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I can confirm that to date, the Ministry has not contacted any suppliers or contractors asking whether they meet the definition of a Māori business or to advise them of the requirements of the Progressive Procurement Policy. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

This Ministry has purchased a subscription limited licence with Amotai to access a database of registered Māori owned suppliers which would assist us in identifying which suppliers to approach with a request. The Ministry is also planning to access the NZBN register for Māori businesses. This is self-identified by Māori businesses who have an NZBN to complete on their existing digital NZBN registration to indicate if they identify as Māori.

- *The number/value of contracts your agency has terminated because a supplier or contractor didn't meet the definition of a Māori business since the Progressive Procurement Policy came into force.*

The Ministry has not terminated any contracts with suppliers because they did not meet the definition of a Māori business since the Progressive Procurement Policy came into force. The Ministry only terminates supplier contracts based on reassessment of business needs for the services or for a reason allowed for termination within the contract.

- *The number/value of contracts your agency has signed with Māori businesses since the Progressive Procurement Policy came into force.*

The Ministry is aware that it has, and continues to, enter into arrangements with Māori and Pacific organisations to deliver social service outcomes. However, at this time there is no ability to digitally capture and record organisations that identify as a Māori business within current systems, and to do so would involve significant resources to consolidate this information. This will be resolved with the phase 2 introduction of a system covering procurement and contracts management. This is due for release towards the middle or end of 2022. In the meantime, the Ministry is unable to efficiently generate this information.

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
- 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Progressive Procurement Policy, 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.

Yours sincerely

 PP
Karen Dawson
**Group General Manager
Commercial Operations**