



25 November 2021

Tēnā koe

On 1 September 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Reports provided by the Ministry of Social Development to the Minister for Disability Issues in the week commencing 2 August as at 20 August 2021*
 - *Memo: Information about hearing loss issues in Aotearoa New Zealand, REP/21/7/769, 2/08/2021*
 - *Aide memoire: RCOI Responsible Ministers quarterly meeting, REP/21/7/775, 3/08/2021*
 - *Aide memoire: Pre-meet with Pou Tangata Co-Chairs, REP/21/7/787, 4/08/2021*
 - *Report - Review of hardship assistance, REP/21/7/703, 4/08/2021*
 - *Children's Commissioner: Revised Accountability Documents, REP/21/7/803, 6/08/2021*

On 28 September 2021, the Ministry emailed you to advise that more time was required to respond to your request, and a decision was due to you on 20 October 2021. This was done in accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Act.

On 20 October 2021, the Ministry sent you a Notification of Decision, informing you that the Ministry would send you the information by 4 November 2021.

I would like to extend my apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information.

As requested, please see the following documents enclosed:

- REP/21/7/769 – Memo – *Information about hearing issues in Aotearoa*, dated 20 July 2021

- REP/21/7/775 – Aide Mémoire - *RCOI Responsible Ministers Quarterly meeting*, dated 29 July 2021
- REP/21/7/787 – Aide Mémoire – *Pre-meet with Pou Tangata Co-Chairs*, dated 27 July 2021
- REP/21/7/703 – Report – *Review of hardship assistance*, dated 3 August 2021
- REP/21/7/803 – Report - *Children’s Commissioner: Revised Accountability Documents*, dated 3 August 2021

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

The names of some individuals have been withheld 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.

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld and marked as ‘outside scope’ as you advised that you did not require the names of Ministry staff who are not decision-makers or below tier 4.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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 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 regarding reports provided by the Ministry to the Minister for Disability Issues in the week commencing 2 August 2021, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus', written in a cursive style.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services