



20 December 2022

Tēnā koe

On 12 December 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Does the Ministry of Social Development have, or previously had, access to Facebook's takedown portal?*
- *If so, I'd like to request a list of all posts (if any) on which a takedown request has been placed, alongside any guidelines and policies held around takedown requests.*
- *If no portal is used but Facebook posts are "reported" nonetheless, I'd please like to request a list of such reported posts and any relevant policies and guidelines.*
- *If such a list is not held the best indication available as to the amount and type of content requested to be taken down/reported will suffice*

The Ministry does not have access to Facebook's takedown portal, nor has it had access to the portal in the past.

Reporting of content by the Ministry pages is very rare and where reports are made, they are based on breaches of Facebook's Community Standards on bullying and harassment, typically when there are threats to staff. We do not maintain a record of reported content. We would estimate reports are made on several occasions per year.

As such, I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you had requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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 on the Ministry'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



Ruth Laugesen
Manager,
Media and Social Media