



8 November 2022

Tēnā koe

On 10 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA): Ministry of Social Development's plan of implementation / work to date relating to the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, as mentioned in the 4th April 2022 Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Cabinet Papers. If you need any more information, please advise us as soon as possible. We understand that a decision on a request for information under the OIA should be made within 20 working days of receiving that request.*

On 6 September 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advise that more time was required to respond to your request. The reason for this extension was that the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request could not reasonably be made within the original time limit.

On 25 October 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advise that your request would be granted in part, but more time was required to prepare the documents for release.

First, I will outline the Ministry's work to date regarding the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan (OTAP). Second, I will provide documents that address the work the Ministry has completed.

The Ministry has identified that further documents may be in scope of your request that were not included in the initial scoping. If you would like to request this information, I encourage you to submit a new request to the Ministry. I would like to extend my apologies for this.

#### *Summary of the Ministry's work*

The first action on the OTAP regards the Chief Executive clarifying expectations of engagement to frontline staff. Ministry and Oranga Tamariki

staff interact on a daily basis across sites. It has been identified that each site has unique ways of interacting due to environmental circumstances. The Ministry is addressing how to meet the requirements of the OTAP while acknowledging that each site has different approaches.

The second action the Ministry is addressing is in relation to the overarching Action in the Implementation plan that addresses the transition pathway out of care into employment, education, or training. The Ministry has also identified that while there are many employment products specifically designed to meet the needs of young people, there is an opportunity to review the transition from Oranga Tamariki care into Ministry case management services.

The Ministry is currently working with the Regional Public Service Commissioners to progress the Implementation Plan and to help drive support for regional leadership to enable local-led solutions that are fit for purpose in their environment. The Ministry is identifying opportunities to align the OTAP with regional priorities.

The Ministry is also working alongside Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga – Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on opportunities to better assist people transitioning from Oranga Tamariki care or custody into housing. More information on HAP initiatives funded under Budget 22 and the latest reports are available at the following link: [www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/aotearoa-new-zealand-homelessness-action-plan-2020-2023/](http://www.hud.govt.nz/our-work/aotearoa-new-zealand-homelessness-action-plan-2020-2023/).

#### *Supporting documents*

The following documents are in scope of your request, and are enclosed in the attached **Appendix**:

- *Advice on action 2 of the OTAP: Practical, high-impact action (For SWB 3 May) REVISED*
- *Advice to Debbie Power for 24 November 2021*
- *Feedback for Minister Sepuloni on the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Cabinet Paper Final*
- *Feedback on the OTAP draft papers*
- *MSD's feedback on OTAP*
- *MSD's input into the revised OTAP*
- *MSD's role in OTAP*
- *OTAP advice for SWB 16 Feb*

There are three further documents in scope of your request that I have summarised below.

- *Report Options for MSD to support the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan*
- *Table – MSD's current work for the Oranga Tamariki cohort*

- *2021 MCP Highlights*

Please see a summary of the document '2021 MCP Highlights' below, which is not released to you as it is largely outside of the scope of your request.

The Māori, Communities, and Partnerships group identified that in 2021, Oranga Tamariki's Contract and Services management was successfully transferred to the Ministry, and that a centralised national contract administration and new teams were set up.

Two documents are summarised as they are brainstorming documents, and I believe that the below summary provides an adequate explanation of the work that is discussed.

The first document is an Options table for the Ministry to support the OTAP. The document explores information sharing between Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry, and opportunities and barriers for growth in this area.

The second document explores key questions about how the Ministry can best support the OTAP through an issue tree. These questions include what obligations the Ministry must meet, the opportunity to work with other children's agencies, funding and resourcing requirements, and data sharing.

The Ministry is withholding one document, titled '*Table of regional relationships between the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki*' in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

Please note that some information is withheld from the documents in the attached **Appendix** 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.

Some information is also withheld from the documents in the attached **Appendix** under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

Some information is withheld from the documents in the attached **Appendix** under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. 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.

Where information is not related to the Ministry's work to date regarding the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, this has not been released to you as it is considered outside the scope of your request. Where significant portions of the documents are considered 'out of scope', the Ministry has provided you with excerpts.

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'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 regarding the Ministry's work to date for the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, 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



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