



28 November 2022

Tēnā koe

On 14 November 2022, the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) transferred your request in full to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for the following information:

- *I'd like to know if the MSD, more specifically Work and Income provides beneficiaries or prisoners with work placements at Interwaste otherwise known as International Waste Ltd at 12 Broken Hill Road in Wellington.*
- *If the answer is yes to question 1, Is the MSD aware that the emissions the workers are exposed to on this site are carcinogenic and damaging to their health?*

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will respond to your request in turn.

- *I'd like to know if the MSD, more specifically Work and Income provides beneficiaries or prisoners with work placements at Interwaste otherwise known as International Waste Ltd at 12 Broken Hill Road in Wellington.*

The Ministry can confirm that one person has been placed into an employment opportunity with International Waste Ltd.

- *If the answer is yes to question 1, Is the MSD aware that the emissions the workers are exposed to on this site are carcinogenic and damaging to their health?*

For the Official Information Act 1982 to apply, the information must already be held by the agency concerned. With the exception of providing a response to a request for a statement of reasons about the request decision itself, there is no obligation on an agency to form an opinion or create information to answer a request in the form of questions or interrogatory. In accordance with this advice from the Office of the Ombudsman, the agency is not

required to answer this part of your request, as it does not specifically qualify as a request for official information.

If you have a concern about an unsafe or unhealthy work situation that could lead to a death or serious injury or illness, then you can contact Worksafe and raise your concerns, and I strongly encourage you to do so. More information can be found at: <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/notifications/health-or-safety-concern/>.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding any clients placed into work with International Waste Ltd, 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

*Bridget Saunders*

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager**  
**Issues Resolution**  
**Service Delivery**