



1 August 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your request of 8 July 2024, requesting information about benefit deductions from Ministry clients. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I will answer your questions in order.

*1. How does MSD receive information from MOJ example is it a letter, discs or electronically*

The Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) have an automated process to exchange information about clients with court deductions. MoJ sends a file electronically to MSD each day with requests to add, change or delete court fine deductions on client records.

*2. How does MSD verify that information received from MOJ is accurate*

The Ministry is not required to verify the information received from MoJ. The law requires Work and Income to make the deductions. Only a court can stop or change the deductions.

*3. How much notice does MSD legally have to give cl before starting their redirection*

Except as otherwise ordered by the court, an attachment order takes effect when a copy of the order is served on the employer (in this case the Ministry). There is no legal obligation on the Ministry to notify the beneficiary that the deductions would begin as a result of an attachment order made by the court.

Please see the following link for further information on the relevant legislation:

[District Court Act 2016 No 49 \(as at 01 December 2022\), Public Act 155 Attachment orders – New Zealand Legislation](#)

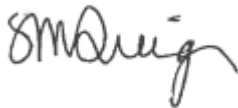
While the Ministry is under no legal obligation to give advance notice when actioning an attachment order, a letter is sent to clients whenever a change is actioned on their benefit payments.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**