



18 March 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 1 February 2024, requesting information about Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) contracts with community and social service providers in the Ruapehu and Taumarunui areas.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below. I have also included some links to websites at the end of this letter that provide information about service providers and tenders.

In response to your request for information about current contracts I refer you to:

- **Appendix one, Table one** which provides a list of all active Ministry contracts in Taumarunui and Ruapehu
- **Appendix two** which provides a list of Industry Partnerships funded contracts which include specific investment in Taumarunui.

Please note, we have defined Taumarunui as the Ruapehu District Territorial Authority boundary in line with the Ministry's standard reporting of data which is published on the Ministry's website.

Your request for information about pending tenders is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as there are currently no pending tenders in the Taumarunui or Ruapehu District areas.

Your request for information about contracts currently being reviewed is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you 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 process to review contracts, and any subsequent decision-making, occurs mainly in the last quarter of the financial year. Some contracts will also be subject to decisions made in Budget 2024.

The Family Services Directory and New Zealand Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS)

You may be interested in the following link to Ministry's Family Service Directory:

- www.familyservices.govt.nz/directory/

The Family Services Directory is a searchable online database that lists information about family support organisations and the services/programmes they offer to support New Zealand families. The purpose of the Directory is to connect people with providers who can help them to cope with common issues and problems.

I also refer you to the New Zealand Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS) website which is a useful source of information regarding government tenders:

- www.gets.govt.nz

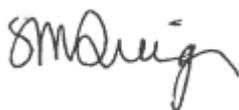
The Ministry submits all tender documents to this site. The GETS site has a notification service which enables any individual to make an account so they can receive notifications regarding new tenders in categories and/or regions of interest.

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.

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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services



Appendix Two

A list of current Industry Partnerships funded contracts which include specific investment in Taumarunui

Partner	Investment – Financial Year 2024 ¹	Notes – timing, results, previous investment
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) Community Employment Programme	\$325,000	<p>The MTFJ Community Employment Programme provides funding to 33 regional and provincial councils to deliver community-based employment solutions, primarily for people aged 16-24 not in education, employment, or training.</p> <p>The programme delivers work readiness skills, pre-employment and on-the-job training and other supports, such as helping with the costs associated with starting work. Each council tailors their programme to suit their local circumstances. In the financial year 2024, Ruapehu District Council has a contract to deliver 38 outcomes for \$325,000.</p> <p>The Council partners with King Country REAP to deliver the programme in Taumarunui. Ruapehu District Council has been involved in the programme since 2020.</p>

¹ Financial Year 2024 is defined as the period between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024. Please note that the information tabled is as-at 10 January 2024.

Partner	Investment – Financial Year 2024	Notes – timing, results, previous investment
Conservation Volunteers New Zealand	\$165,000 (plus Flexi wage Subsidies)	<p>Conservation Volunteers New Zealand is an Industry Partnerships programme that builds participants' skills, confidence and work readiness in preparation for placement into work in conservation and other outdoor employment.</p> <p>Participants complete 11 weeks of paid work experience working on local conservation projects and then are brokered into work in related fields. The programme is now in its sixth year of operation, having enabled 650 clients to enter employment. During this period, it has achieved a 78% employment outcome rate.</p> <p>Conservation Volunteers New Zealand is delivering the programme in Te Kūiti at present. The first of three cohorts of 10 participants completed the programme in December 2023 and two further cohorts will complete the programme in early 2024. This programme is funded by the Ministry at a cost of \$5500 per participant. In addition, Flexi wage wage subsidies are used to fund participants to work 30 hours per week over 10 weeks.</p>
Kiwi Can Do	\$270,720.00	<p>Kiwi Can Do have been appointed to a Ministry Industry Partnerships Construction Panel to provide Pre-Employment training. They are currently contracted to deliver a “Taste of Trades” programme to 40 Ministry Job Seekers from the Taranaki region in two locations: Taumarunui and Marton. This includes the ability to accommodate participants residentially if they are not able to commute from their home locations.</p>

Partner	Investment – Financial Year 2024	Notes – timing, results, previous investment
Rebel Business School	\$7,500	<p>Rebel Business School delivers workshop courses that teaches participants the fundamentals of starting a small business. The programme content is aimed at people who are starting a small business without capital funds or prior experience. Rebel Business School delivered their 5-day programme in Taumaranui in October 2023. The Ministry supported this programme, funding \$7,500 towards delivery costs.</p> <p>Participants in this programme learn key business principles, including value proposition, business viability, marketing and sales. In addition, they build confidence and skills that aid in their employment search.</p> <p>Rebel Business School is free to attend for participants. The programme targets Ministry clients but is also open to members of the public.</p>
Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust	\$61,467.00	<p>Te Awanui a Rua Charitable Trust has been contracted to trial a Mahi Rangatira approach with rangatahi in Taumaranui. Mahi Rangatira is a Māori programme that was first trialled with Te Whānau-ā-Apanui in Te Kaha (Eastern Bay of Plenty). The approach allows hapū to build capability for rangatahi to develop their skills and build their confidence, through hunting and fishing techniques.</p>