



8 November 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2024, which requested the names, education and conviction checks of all directors and Executive Leadership Team members for the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and its predecessor from 1998 to 2024.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

We have interpreted your request as relating to the Leadership Teams of the Ministry and its predecessor, the Department of Work and Income (DWI), and for leaders who report or reported directly to the Chief Executive.

As you may be aware, the Ministry came into existence on 1 October 2001. As you have requested information for the period from 1998 to 30 September 2001, this response also covers information we hold about DWI as the Ministry's previous name.

1. The names of the directors known in the Senior Leadership Team for Work and Income from 1998 to 2024

Please find below a list of requested names as an **Appendix** to this response.

The list below contains names of people reporting to the Chief Executive, as well as Chief Executives, from 1998 until the date of this letter. It also includes people who were briefly in positions reporting to the Chief Executive because they acted in the position and, as such, were members of the Leadership Team.

As a result, this list contains names of people who were, at a point in time, acting in a Leadership Team member role.

2. The number of education and conviction checks completed on Directors and Executive Leadership Team Members between 1998 to 2024

In relation to the second part of your request, as part of the recruitment process, we ensure that our vetting of candidates is robust. The Ministry does not retain data about educational achievements after that process has been completed, so we cannot provide that data. 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.

Regarding conviction checks, all employees are asked to disclose any convictions at the time of employment and are also vetted either through Ministry of Justice checks or Police checks (or both). If those disclosures or checks revealed anything that was material to the role, that would likely have impacted their employment. The Ministry does not keep a record of the checks post-employment. The assumption is, that if they were employed, then they had satisfied the vetting process.

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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp.



Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix: Names of Leadership Team members of the Department of Work and Income/Ministry of Social Development, 1998 to 2024

Karen Wallace	Ray Smith	Nigel Bickle
Helene Quilter	Mark Fell	Gary Lewis
Graeme Carruthers	Paul Dibley	Patricia Reade
John White	Parekura Horomia	Gail D'Ath
Faith Denny	Ann Dostine	Tony Gavin
Sue Christie	Nick Gale	Ian Watson
Gayle Abel	Rupert Ablett-Hampson	Dorothy Adams
Anouk Alexander	Paula Attrill	Ruth Bound
Rob Brown	Cain McLeod	Carl Crafar
Doug Craig	Murray Edridge	Christine Etherington
Fiona Carter-Giddings	Scott Gallacher	Janet Grossman
Don Gray	Donald Greenfield	Janet Green
Iona Holsted	Anne Jackson	Nadine Kilmister
Liz Jones	Ross Judge	Stuart Macdonald
Marcel Lauziere	Gary Lewis	Marama Edwards
Bernadine MacKenzie	Sue Mackwell	Merv Dacre
Joan McQuay	Melissa Gill	Alan Nixon
Neil Miranda	Nic Blakeley	Debbie Power
Ruth Palmer	Nic Pole	Sacha O'Dea
Hilary Reynolds	Charles Ronaldson	Simon MacPherson
David Shanks	Barry Shea	Emma Speight
Ranjit Singh	Mike Smith	Tamati Shepherd-Wipiiti
Stephen Crombie	Christine Stevenson	Marc Warner
Carolyn Risk	Wendy Venter	Viv Rickard
Rob Hodgson	Richard Wood	Tele'a Andrews
Andrea Lawton	Anouk Alexander	Tracy Voice