MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

27 August 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 2 August 2025 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) in which you asked if Work and Income provides legal representation.

The Ministry emailed you on 7 August 2025 to refine your request but received no response. In the absence of refinement, I have interpreted that you are seeking information about any legal representation Work and Income provides to its clients.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The Ministry has a legal team; however, they are employed to provide inhouse legal advice to Ministry staff and do not provide legal representation to Work and Income clients. Clients who require legal advice or legal representation should obtain this themselves (e.g. by contacting a law firm, their nearest Community Law Centre, or the Citizens Advice Bureau).

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

If you wish to resubmit your request with clarified questions, or discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz. Please note that doing so will be treated as a new request and will restart the standard 20 working day response timeframe under the Act.

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.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services