



11 March 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 14 February 2025 in which you requested information about the community consultation the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) is currently undertaking regarding the provision of Disability Support Services (DSS) in New Zealand.

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.

1. A breakdown of the costs related to designing and disseminating the Disability Support Services consultation

The Disability Support Services Taskforce (the Taskforce) has led the design of the community consultation and its dissemination. Ministry staff do not record the number of hours spent on specific tasks, and we would therefore have to create new information to determine associated staff costs. As such, I am refusing this aspect of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist.

I note that other costs related to community consultation are yet to be finalised, as consultation is ongoing. The required costs are being met from within the funding Cabinet agreed to reappropriate to support the work of the Taskforce. I anticipate that the Ministry will be in the position to publicly release more information following consultation, which will run until 24 March 2025.

2. A breakdown of costs projected to process feedback once the Disability Support Services consultation period closes

The Taskforce is currently seeking proposals from third parties to work with Ministry staff to collate and analyse submissions. This procurement process is ongoing and the Ministry is yet to award a contract for this work.

On that basis, I am refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(j) of the Act to enable the Ministry to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations). The greater public interest is in ensuring that government agencies can continue to negotiate without prejudice.

Taskforce staff are supporting the consultation workshops. They will carry out the additional analysis required to provide the Government with policy options to stabilise the provision of DSS and respond to the recommendations of the Independent Review into Disability Support Services. This advice will inform further work to strengthen the provision of DSS into the future. The Ministry anticipates that it will provide this advice to the Government later this year.

I will publish 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services