



2 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 31 July 2025, to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), in which you requested information about government expenditure on technology systems to detect fraud and corruption. DPMC transferred the part of your request in which you asked for information about the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) to the Ministry on 5 August 2025.

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

The one software solution the Ministry uses exclusively for the purposes of fraud and corruption detection is i2 Analyst's Notebook (i2). This is an advanced visual analysis tool, widely used in intelligence and fraud investigations. It helps analysts make sense of complex data by turning raw information, such as phone records, financial transactions, or demographic information, into link charts and timelines. These visuals make it easier to identify hidden patterns, relationships, and networks of interest, supporting faster decision making in investigations and intelligence work. You will find the amounts the Ministry paid for i2 licenses between 2023 to 2025 detailed in **Table 1**.

Table 1 – Annual expenditure on i2 licenses between 2023 and 2025

Cost	2023	2024	2025
i2 license fees	\$13,519.25	\$14,871.20	\$16,358.30

The Ministry uses a range of methods to detect and prevent potential fraud against the welfare system. These cases may come from public allegations, referrals from our front-line staff, information matching or referrals from other agencies, or from analysis undertaken by our Intelligence and Integrity Insights and Workplace Integrity teams. To undertake this analysis, staff may use a range of software solutions in addition to i2, including ones that are commonly used across the Ministry, such as Microsoft Excel (Excel) and SAS Visual Analytics (SAS).

The Ministry is unable to disaggregate expenditure for commonly available technology and software, such as Excel and SAS, when it is used specifically for fraud and/or corruption detection, as they are widely used across the agency for other purposes. The Ministry also does not record its software expenditure under the categories repair, maintenance, or development. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request 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.

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

pp.



Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services