



19 September 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2025, requesting information about advice provided to Ministers on use of benefit sanctions since November 2023.

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

Key advice provided to Ministers is publicly available on the Ministry's website, we are providing the publicly available links here:

- Changes to welfare settings to support people into employment and off benefit: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2024/changes-to-welfare-settings-to-support-people-into-employment-and-off-benefit.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2024/changes-to-welfare-settings-to-support-people-into-employment-and-off-benefit.html)
- Regulatory Impact Statement – changes to welfare settings to support people into employment and off benefit: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/changes-to-welfare-settings-to-support-people-into-employment-and-off-benefit.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/changes-to-welfare-settings-to-support-people-into-employment-and-off-benefit.html)
- Social Security Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2025/social-security-amendment-bill-approval-for-introduction.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2025/social-security-amendment-bill-approval-for-introduction.html)

We have also identified the following publicly available page on the NZ Legislation Disclosures website as relevant to your request:

- Social Security Amendment Bill: [disclosure.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2024/103/](http://disclosure.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2024/103/)

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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. *Anna Graham*

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
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