



24 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 3 September 2025 in which you asked how many of the abuse allegations against former Youthlink Family Trust (Youthlink) staff, as described within the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) published response to a previous request for information, dated 14 March 2024, were referred to the New Zealand Police.

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

The Ministry introduced the Historic Claims Application (HCA), the database the Historic Claims team uses to centrally record claim related data, including allegations made by claimants, in 2017. The HCA shows that the Ministry has not referred any allegations against former Youthlink staff to Police since 2017. Prior to the introduction of the HCA, Ministry staff only recorded the allegations of abuse it referred to the Police in individual claimant records.

I am refusing your request for information about allegations against Youthlink staff which the Ministry may have referred to Police prior to 2017 under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, the information would only be contained within individual claimant records, which would each need to be manually reviewed to determine if information is held. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the Public Service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The Ministry generally only refer allegations of abuse to the Police with the consent of the victim, as the Police require victim cooperation to investigate and prosecute cases. The Ministry also refers allegations to Police if they believe the alleged perpetrator may still be employed by an organisation that would make them a risk to children and young people.

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