



25 JUL 2016

Dear

On 19 May 2016, you emailed the Ministry requesting the following information:

- 1. Any reports, briefings, aide memoirs, research, and advice given to the minister that are about, or include mention of, funding for budgeting services from January 2015 until April 2016*
- 2. Copies of all correspondence, including emails, sent and received from the minister and her office that include mention of alterations and/ or restructuring and/ or changes to funding for budgeting services from January 2015 to April 2016*

On 27 May 2016, you were contacted by a Ministerial and Executive Services Advisor and informed that providing a response to your request would require substantial manual collation. As such, you refined your request to any reports and briefings provided to the Minister for Social Development between January 2015 and April 2016.

The Ministry is currently undertaking a major shift in how it funds and supports budget services that are delivered to the public. The aim is to build the financial capability of New Zealanders experiencing hardship. The shift is being made to ensure services:

- take into account the diverse and complex needs of New Zealanders experiencing hardship
- deliver a seamless and empowering experience for clients that is consistent and collaborative across the board.

Further information can be found at the following links:

<https://www.familyservices.govt.nz/working-with-us/funding-and-contracting/budgeting-services-funding/#FrequentlyaskedquestionsFAQ7>

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community-investment-strategy/index.html>

Please find enclosed the following five documents:

1. *'Proposed approach to re-designing the Budgeting Services funding and service model'* dated 9 July 2015;
2. *'Increasing financial capability of New Zealanders experiencing hardship'* dated 21 August 2015;
3. *'Budgeting Services: effectiveness of the current service model and proposals or improvement'* dated 15 September 2015;
4. *'Briefing for Minister of Finance on the budgeting services redesign for increasing financial capability'* dated 4 April 2016;
5. *'Increasing financial capability for people facing hardship'* dated 21 April 2016.

Note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as, if released, would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. The greater public interest is in ensuring that the commercial position can be maintained.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

I hope you find this information regarding budgeting services helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely



Bryan Wilson
Associate Deputy Chief Executive, Community Investment