



03 NOV 2016

On 7 October 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of all weekly briefings received by the Minister from the Ministry from the 14<sup>th</sup> of January 2016 until June 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.*

As you were advised on 4 May 2016, the Social Development Update is a weekly briefing the Minister for Social Development receives from the Ministry. The information in the update is expressed in an informal and frank manner, and is a means of ensuring that the Minister is briefed in advance of a full report on the issues being received. The provision of this advice ensures that the Minister can have oversight of the Ministry's business.

The Ministry regularly considers the content in the Social Development Update and the value that it provides to the Minister and her office. This ensures that the update effectively briefs the Minister and that key and sensitive issues are included. I have considered your request and decided that releasing the Social Development Update would prejudice the Ministry's ability to brief the Minister in such a manner, and undermine the value of providing the Minister with free and frank advice.

As such, the Social Development Update is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions and the ability of government to consider advice. Releasing the update would erode the Ministry's ability to communicate issues in a timely manner, and the quality of decision making would suffer with the net result being less open processes of government. Where issues in the update go on to form full reports by the Ministry, these documents are often released proactively by the Ministry or under the Official Information Act. I believe that this satisfies the public interest in the information requested.

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).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nadine', written in a cursive style.

Nadine Kilmister  
**General Manager, Office of the Chief Executive**