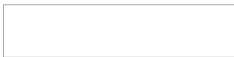
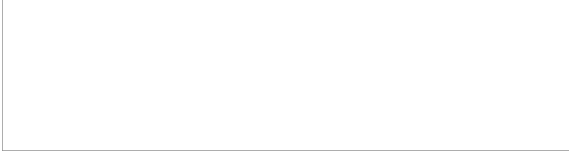




03 NOV 2016



On 26 September 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *What progress is the Ministry of Social Development making towards Sustainable Development Goal 1?*
- *Is there a work programme underway in relation to SDG 1? If so, what are the key milestones and actions of the programme? How much FTE resourcing is dedicated to the programme?*
- *Are other departments working in collaboration with MSD on SDG 1? How often do they meet with MSD officials relating to SDG1/work programme on SDG 1? Please provide meeting dates for the last six months and the topics discussed.*
- *Please provide copies of all reports, briefings, aide memoires, memos, updates, advice, emails to the Minister's office on SDG 1 where it is substantially mentioned (paragraph or more) from the past five months.*

The Ministry of Social Development is continuing to work through the details for how to implement, deliver, and report on progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 1 (SDG1). The Ministry's annual Incomes Report and the companion Non-Incomes Report provide a range of measures with which to monitor New Zealand's progress against SDG1. The staff resourcing for work on the Sustainable Development Goals is part of the Ministry's business as usual, and as such the Ministry is unable to report the total full-time equivalent (FTE) resourcing dedicated to the work. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to provide you with this information. 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 is also working with Statistics New Zealand to provide feedback on the international indicators developed by the UN Inter-Agency Experts group on SDGs. The Ministry attends quarterly meetings with an inter-agency group to discuss progress on the SDGs. The meetings to date have discussed issues such as alignment of the Goals and targets with the New Zealand Government's policies and

priorities, indicators and how agencies can use existing data to track progress, reporting by UN member states on the SDGs, and opportunities for agencies to engage with domestic stakeholders. These meetings took place on 7 April, 1 June, 24 August and 13 October 2016.

- *Please provide copies of all reports, briefings, aide memoires, memos, updates, advice, emails to the Minister's office on SDG 1 where it is substantially mentioned (paragraph or more) from the past five months.*

You will find enclosed a one page briefing which was provided to the Minister for Social Development, Hon Anne Tolley, as part of the briefing material for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child examination. This briefing sets out that achieving the SDGs will require a cross-Government effort and that the New Zealand government agencies are reviewing the Goals and their alignment with existing Government priorities.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact 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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Audrey Bancroft
General Manager, Seniors, International and Disability Policy

Issue

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Key messages

- Achieving the SDGs will require a cross-Government effort. New Zealand government agencies are reviewing the goals and their alignment with existing Government priorities. This analysis will inform a discussion on how New Zealand focuses its efforts.

Answer

An inter-agency approach will ensure that the SDGs are incorporated into existing work streams

An interagency process has been established to consider how the SDGs apply domestically, and how the Government can best take them forward. At a recent interagency meeting (5 April), agencies agreed the SDGs were well aligned with existing Government priorities, and that New Zealand should take a targeted approach to progressing them. Further work will be done to map these against existing work streams, to avoid duplication. For example, the initiatives implemented to alleviate child poverty (see [poverty briefing material](#)) align with SDG Goal 1.

Early work on coordination and targeting, testing data and reporting adequacy, will avoid repeat exercises in the future, and identify likely areas of progress, and gaps, to advise Ministers and to prepare for New Zealand's voluntary report to the UN in due course.

New Zealand also needs to consider how to ensure implementation of the SDGs can be effectively measured and tracked. New Zealand has advocated for indicators that developing countries, including small Pacific countries, would be able to measure and for simple, nimble and effective UN review mechanisms.

In New Zealand we are focused on using existing data to report on the SDGs, rather than creating new systems / mechanisms. There is an important role for central agencies, including Statistics New Zealand in this process.

Supplementary information

Although the SDGs are not legally binding, countries are expected to work towards achieving relevant SDGs domestically and to support overall achievement through their positions on global policy issues such as trade, tax and climate change and, in the case of developed countries, through their development cooperation programmes. The intention is that countries will use their own domestic processes to apply the SDG framework and report voluntarily on progress with implementation.

The current UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, recognised the problem of breadth and absence of prioritisation, and the need for flexibility, in a recent report to the membership. He invited states to approach implementation of the SDGs and report on progress in ways and means which best suited them.

New Zealand and the Pacific already have good local models to turn global goals and targets into meaningful operations, from political levels, through country plans and strategies, and investment priorities. This involves action at the national level, Pacific Islands Forum coordination, bilateral assistance, strong donor coordination and improved delivery from international organisations

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