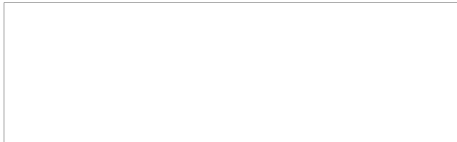




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

18 OCT 2016



Dear 

On 8 August 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information about the Canterbury Whole of Recovery Lessons and Legacy Programme.

As you will be aware, the Canterbury earthquakes have been nationally and internationally significant on many levels. The Government is committed to drawing on the lessons from Canterbury to strengthen future resilience for the benefit of all New Zealanders. To support learning from Canterbury, the Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Learning and Legacy Programme is being facilitated by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

The Programme encourages and facilitates learning from all sectors including the whole of government, local institutions, private sector, non-government organisations and social enterprises. It is envisaged that the Ministry project will contribute to this Programme's body of knowledge.

For the sake of clarity I will address each of your questions in turn.

- *Could you please send me the brief/description/instructions given to the researcher(s) for the MSD project, believed to be called "recovery lessons learned" (on what can be learned about its role in the earthquake recovery)?*
- *What aspects are going to be analysed?*

No brief or description was provided to the researcher prior to the commencement of the project. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

However, I have provided you with a list of the deliverables that the researcher was engaged to provide. These deliverables outline the key aspects that the Ministry hopes to ascertain through the researcher's work. The list is provided below:

- Finalise and gain approval for the project brief.
- Data collection from existing sources, short literature review, and targeted interviews with core stakeholders to determine way forward based on need.

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- A draft report, outlining the Ministry's lessons learned from the Canterbury earthquake.
- A final report, incorporating feedback, this is to be completed to quality standards suitable for external publication.
- *How many staff are working on this project?*
- *How much is each researcher paid for the project?*
- *Where was the researcher sourced from? i.e any living in Christchurch?*

One staff member is employed by the Ministry to take part in the project. The salary of the individual is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of that individual outweighs any public interest in this information.

The researcher is a staff member within the Ministry's Research and Evaluation Unit.

- *Are there any other research work being undertaken by MSD in Christchurch this year?*

The Ministry is not undertaking any further research on the ground in Christchurch before the end of the year. However, the Ministry is contributing to cross-agency research and evaluation for projects such as the Integrated Safety Response pilot, a family violence initiative lead by Police, and the Enabling Good Lives Project, a disability sector initiative.

- *What date is the project expected to be delivered on?*

The research is expected to be completed by February 2017.

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

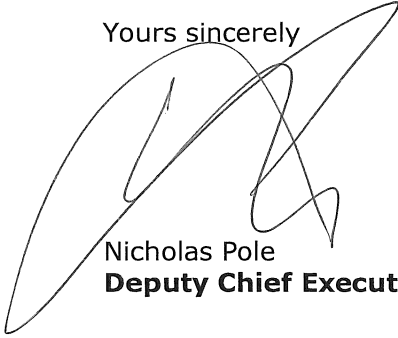
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter 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 any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, 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 decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Nicholas Pole

Deputy Chief Executive, Organisational Solutions