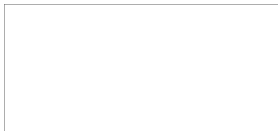




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 7 SEP 2016



Dear

On 21 July 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the legal costs of Counsel for and the number of similar cases, where the Ministry has additional guardianship under the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act, but there are also orders made under the Care of the Child Act in respect of day-to-day care and/or guardianship.

At the discretion of site managers, funding is provided to Permanent Caregivers defending any subsequent proceedings brought by birth parents, or seeking variations to their legal orders. More information about the payment of legal costs for caregivers is available on Child, Youth and Family's website at <http://cyf-practice-centre.ssi.govt.nz/policy/noho-ake-oranga/resources/support-and-assistance-for-permanent-caregivers.html>.

The Ministry does not release the amount paid in legal costs on behalf of caregivers as this information constitutes personal information. This information is therefore 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 these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

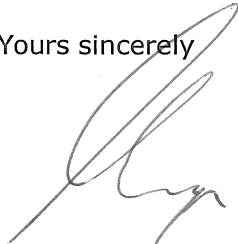
The Ministry is unable to provide you with the number of similar cases, where the Ministry has additional guardianship under the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act, when there are also orders made under the Care of the Child Act in respect of day-to-day care and/or guardianship, as this information is held on individual files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as Ministry staff would be required to review hundreds of individual files to provide 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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Murray Edridge', written over the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Murray Edridge
Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family