



4 APR 2017

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On 7 March 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding the Christian Church Community Trust Joint Agency Approach (Joint Approach) costs.

The Joint Approach was established in 2015 to identify concerns raised regarding the Christian Church Community Trust. The Ministry of Social Development took a lead role in co-ordinating a joint-agency approach into wide-ranging complaints received about the Christian Church Community Trust.

The Ministry worked with the Police, the Department of Internal Affairs and other government agencies to bring expertise together to assess all areas of concern that had been raised.

Each agency involved in the Joint Approach had its own objectives and associated accountabilities relevant to its specific mandate. As a part of the Joint Approach agreement, each agency was required to source funding for their own participation, from within their own budget.

The Ministry's involvement in the Joint Approach was part of the Ministry's standard business operations. The Joint Approach was not allocated any specific funding. Ministry staff who worked as a part of the Joint Approach also worked on tasks and cases unrelated to the Joint Approach. In order to provide information regarding the Ministry's expenses in relation to the Joint Approach, Ministry staff would have to review the amount of time each employee has spent working on the Joint Approach (which is not tracked by staff) and the corresponding portion of salary, amounting to substantial collation. As such your request for this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The Ministry does not hold information regarding funding allocations for any other agency engaged in the Joint Approach. As such your request for the cost of the Joint Approach investigation is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation and therefore cannot be transferred.

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.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding the Christian Church Community Trust and the Joint Approach costs with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. 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, appearing to be 'EB', written in a cursive style.

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial & Executive Services