



16 AUG 2017

Dear

On 6 June 2015, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding section 70A of the Social Security Act 1964 and details of parents who fail to pay child support.

The following portion of your request was transferred to Inland Revenue:

- *Details for the past five year of how many parents have failed to pay child support and the value of those unmade payments and how many payments have been wiped/waived?*

This response addresses the following questions:

- *Copies of any advice or reports in the past 5 years on whether Section 70A sanctions are effective or not, including but not limited to advice to the minister and or any reviews or assessments of whether these sanction are achieving their desired result.*
- *Any reports/assessments or similar on any detrimental effects that these sanctions may be having.*

The following reports are in scope of your request, but are withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as they are under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Date	Title
5 September 2015	<i>Advice to Minister Tolley on the requirement for sole parent beneficiaries to apply for child support and reducing benefits for failure to do so (including A3)</i>
19 September 2016	<i>Advice on Section 70A of the Social Security Act 1964</i>
23 September 2016	<i>Advice on Section 70A of the Social Security Act 1964</i>
19 October 2016	<i>Advice on Section 70A of the Social Security Act 1964</i>

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 shortly. 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 this response 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



Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services