



03 JUL 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 8 June 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *In the last two years, broken down by year, how many requests for information under the act were:*
 - *denied in full*
 - *granted in part*
 - *granted in full*
- *When refusing or partially refusing requests, what is the reason provided most often?*
- *How many responses have been extended beyond the 20- day deadline?*
- *On what subject / topic is information most regularly requested?*
- *On how many occasions have responses to requests been reviewed by the Minister before being released?*

The Ministry endeavours to respond to all requests for information within twenty working days. Where it is recognised that this timeframe cannot be met and a decision has not been made on what information is available to be provided in response, the requestor is informed of an extension to the timeframe required to make a decision. Where a decision has been made but additional time to prepare a response is required, requestors are informed of this decision and a revised due date.

Please note, extensions to the timeframe to respond to a request are based on estimates of the time required. When additional unforeseen work is required to provide the requested response, the requestor is kept updated on the progress of their response.

- *How many responses have been extended beyond the 20- day deadline?*

The table below shows all requests for Official Information that were responded to for the period 1 July 2016 to 31 May 2018 (we have not yet confirmed the numbers for June). The number of those requests that were extended beyond twenty working days has also been provided.

Period	Requests Completed	Requests Extended
1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017	511	352
1 July 2017 to 31 May 2018	412	282

Please note, as the statistics included in the table are for those requests logged as Official Information requests, to be managed by the Official and Parliamentary Information team, they will differ from the statistics publically available on the State Services Commission's Website, which shows the number of completed requests, including requests responded to by the Media team.

- *In the last two years, broken down by year, how many requests for information under the act were:*
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- *On how many occasions have responses to requests been reviewed by the Minister before being released?*

The above portions of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as the information is recorded in file notes or on the individual responses, and as such would require substantial collation to provide.

The Ministers' Offices are consulted concerning requests for Official Information in line with the recent guidance from the Ombudsman available here: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/system/paperclip/document_files/document_files/2285/original/oiia_requests_involving_ministers_july_2017.pdf?1501125635.

The Ministers' Offices are aware of all requests for Official Information received by the Ministry and are provided copies of responses to requests for review when the information contained was provided by their Office or is specifically about their functions or activities.

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 regarding Official Information requests, 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



Stephen Crombie
Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Solutions