



22 AUG 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 29 July 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

A contract or memorandum of understanding between the Ministry and the New Zealand Defence Force that related to the youth Development Units (Limited Service Volunteers). Particularly the agreement regarding the provision of health services to programme participants, and which services the New Zealand Defence Force agreed to provide.

The Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) programme is a six week training programme run by the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and the New Zealand Police. All applicants for the programme must undergo a medical examination to determine their fitness for the course, the cost of which is covered by the Ministry. NZDF then decide whether to accept the application based on the information provided with the application and the medical examination.

Once accepted into the course, NZDF are responsible for a trainee's health needs for the duration of the six-week course. Each course is supported by New Zealand Defence Force staff including a nurse, social worker and a psychologist.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) states that NZDF will meet the cost of all medical treatment for all participants, whilst on the course.

The MOU includes a separate section regarding psychological support provided during the course which specifies that NZDF agrees to provide psychological support for trainees and staff at the Trentham, Whenuapai, and Burnham locations. This psychological support will be funded from the appropriation as agreed to by the parties, and the co-ordination of this service will be managed by NZDF and the contracted psychologist.

Alongside the MOU is a set of operational guidelines that sets out the arrangements for medical treatment while on the programme. NZDF will be authorised to provide first aid treatment as appropriate, a nurse will be provided by the New Zealand Defence Force on site to support this treatment, and on-going medical attention will be provided in consultation with the trainee, their family (where appropriate), and trained medical professionals as required.

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 and any attached documents 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 the provision of health services to LSV participants, 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



Cassandra Wise

Manager Issues Resolutions, Service Delivery