



Dear [REDACTED]

On 13 February 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information relating to Māori with disabilities.

For the sake of clarity, I will address each of your questions in turn.

- *How does the Chief Executives group on disability issues ensure that the implementation of Ministerial priorities on disability issues is effective for disabled Māori?*

The Chief Executives Group on disability issues meets two to three times a year with the main part of the one hour meetings being given over to meeting with the Disabled Peoples Organisations (DPO) Coalition. The majority of the agenda therefore is determined by the DPO Coalition, which includes a Māori DPO, Kapo Māori. Underpinning the discussions and the Government's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) is the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2016-2026 with the Treaty of Waitangi as one of the key underlying principles of the Strategy.

- *What are the current priorities for the Chief Executives group relevant to disabled Māori?*

The priority for these meetings is for the Chief Executives to meet with the DPOs and listen to their current strategic issues and problem-solve responses and/or approaches to address those issues. The UNCRPD, the New Zealand Disability Strategy and the Disability Action Plan provide the framework for those discussions. Prior to 2017, the Chief Executives meetings with DPOs also included monitoring of progress against the 2014-2018 Disability Action Plan.

- *How much funding is provided to DPOs / DPO representatives for their participation in the International Monitoring Mechanism for the UNCRPD each year for the past five years? How was the level of funding decided? How does ODI satisfy itself that the level of funding is appropriate?*

There are two funding streams made available through the Office for Disability Issues (ODI) to the DPOs.

The first funding stream is to enable the DPOs to work and meet together as a coalition and provide collective advice to government and for joint governance of the Disability Action Plan with Government officials. This funding comes from the ODI budget and since 2015/2016, about \$100,000 to \$120,000 per year has been budgeted for these meetings with a cost code established to cover track those costs.

That funding covers the costs of travel and accommodation to attend the meetings, meeting fees and other meeting costs such as secretariat support and NZSL interpreters. Prior to 2015/2016 the individual organisations invoiced individually for those costs and the funding for those years are reported as an estimate based on a

search of all expenditure for those years and identifying payments that were made to DPOs or had an expenditure description that was likely to be for DPO meetings.

The actual spend has varied each year since 2015/2016 depending on the actual number of meetings required and the availability of additional funding within the ODI budget to fund those additional meetings.

The level of funding allocated to DPOs was arrived at through agreement between the DPOs and ODI to ensure transparency and consistency between coalition members.

Table One below, column two "DPO Coalition Meetings - actual spend" reports the actual spend broken down by financial year between 2013/14 and 2017/18. Please note, as a cost code was not established in 2013/14 and 2014/15, the figures for these years have been provided as an estimate.

The second funding stream is available to the coalition to fund a contract - Disabled People Led Monitoring of the implementation of the UNCRPD in New Zealand.

Table One, column three 'Disabled People Led Monitoring funding – actual spend' reports the actual spend on this contract. The variation in actual spend is associated with the deliverables for that contract, which included for one year the cost of reviewing the provision of the contracts. DPOs have also used the funding to enable the coalition to meet to specifically provide oversight for the contract.

In 2015/16 and 2016/17 there was under delivery on the Disabled People Led Monitoring contract and funding was withheld accordingly. As a result in 2017/18, ODI and the DPO coalition worked together to procure a review of the contracting arrangement followed by a tendering process to identify a new provider and establishing the cost of a new 2018-2021 three year contract. The new contract specifications respond to recommendations from the review including a recommendation that previous implementation of the contract did not effectively pick up the views of disabled Māori.

Lastly, the DPOs have additional funding streams, unknown to the Office for Disability Issues, through Government contracts, donations, membership fees, which cover the individual organisations' operational expenses.

Table One below shows the actual spend of the DPO Coalition and Disabled People Led Monitoring funding broken down by financial year between 2013/14 and 2017/18.

Financial Year	DPO Coalition Meetings - actual spend	Disabled People Led Monitoring contract – actual spend
2013/2014	\$2,245	\$275,000
2014/2015	\$43,614	\$336,499
2015/2016	\$183,190	\$169,706
2016/2017	\$105,641	\$71,023
2017/2018	\$138,181	\$164,097

Notes:

- All figures exclude GST.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

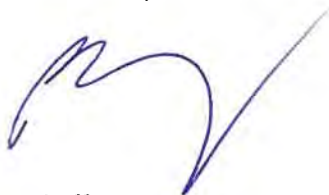
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 Māori with disabilities, 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



Brian Coffey
Director, Office for Disability Issues