



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

1 MAY 2019

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 March 2019 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), further information regarding the Historic Claims process.

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

- *Please provide all information showing "what the Ministry's current approach for resolving historic claims of abuse" is:*

The Ministry has improved the historic abuse claims process, details about this process, including a process chart and the handbook used by staff is available at:

[www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/index.html)

- *Please provide the "Crown historic abuse litigation strategy"*

The Crown's litigation strategy for historic claims of abuse provides government agencies with the three broad principles to address such claims. Firstly, agencies will seek to resolve grievances early and directly with an individual where practicable, secondly, settlement will be considered for any meritorious claim and thirdly, claims that do proceed to court because they cannot be resolved will be defended (access to legal representation).

I hope that you find this information helpful. 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 and attachments 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Historic Claims process, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Brunt', written in a cursive style.

Elisabeth Brunt  
General Manager  
Ministerial and Executive Services