



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

03 NOV 2020

On 23 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

Is there a specific MSD policy that a former beneficiary cannot get employment at a WINZ office, even if working for a private company?

Section 21(1)(k) of the Human Rights Act (the Act) states that a person cannot be discriminated against on the ground of their employment status, which includes being unemployed. In line with this Act, the Ministry does not have any specific policies in regard to former beneficiaries gaining employment at the Ministry or its Service Centres. During the employment application process, the Ministry does ask applicants about their history with the Ministry. This information is never used to determine a candidate's suitability for a role.

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. 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.

Ngā mihi nui

Penny Rounthwaite
Group General Manager
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Page 1 of 1