



20 OCT 2020

Tēnā koe

On 22 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information about the partnership between T&G Global and Ngai Tukairangi Trust:

- *Information on MSD's role in the development and implementation of this project*
- *Business proposals, planning processes and documents reviewed and/or produced by MSD for establishing and confirming the project*
- *A timeline of how and when the project will be rolled out*
- *Details of workers, representatives and organisations that were involved in the planning stages of the project*

The partnership between Ngai Tukairangi Trust and T&G Global (T&G) was seen as an opportunity for the employers to retain workers in the sector and provide individuals with additional skills, as well as longer-term working opportunities. However, this partnership was not a formal project and there was no formal contract with the Ministry required for this initiative. The organisations that were involved during the planning were the Ministry, Ngai Tukairangi Trust and T&G. A timeline of the sequence of events leading up to the partnership is detailed below.

The Ministry brokered a meeting on 29 July 2020, between Ngai Tukairangi Trust, a kiwifruit grower, and T&G Global (T&G), an apple grower. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the possibility of combining these two employers' differing peak labour demands, to offer new jobseekers and existing T&G employees more sustainable longer-term employment, or extended continuity of employment than is sometimes traditionally available within these specialised horticultural industry sectors.

On 28 August 2020, current T&G employees were transported to Ngai Tukairangi's kiwifruit orchard to give these workers a chance to see where they could potentially be working, what the work would entail, and to understand the partnership concept between the two businesses.

On 16 September 2020, potential job-seeking candidates were given the opportunity to visit Ngai Tukairangi's kiwifruit orchard, and T&G Global's apple orchard, to give these potential workers a chance to see where they could be working, as well as what the types of work they would be doing, and to understand the partnership between both businesses. From there, employment commenced on 21 September 2020.

As it was not a formal project, no business proposal concerning this partnership was produced by the Ministry. As such your request for business proposals, planning processes and documents produced by the Ministry for establishing and confirming the project is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

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



Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**