



7 December 2021

Tēnā koe

On 11 October 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Your organisation's average/reported score, as measured against the Policy Quality Framework, in 2019/20 and 2020/21.*
- 2. Your organisation's ministerial satisfaction survey score for your policy advice in 2019/20 and 2020/21.*
- 3. A copy of the assessment panel's review of your policy papers in 2019/20.*
- 4. A copy of the assessment panel's review of your policy papers in 2020/21.*
- 5. A copy of any external reviews done by NZIER in 2019/20 or 2020/21 on the quality of your policy advice.*

Please note the Ministry has interpreted this request as information only relating to our department. As such, the Office for Seniors and Office for Disability Issues has not been included in the scope to this request.

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

- 1. Your organisation's average/reported score, as measured against the Policy Quality Framework, in 2019/20 and 2020/21*
- 2. Your organisation's ministerial satisfaction survey score for your policy advice in 2019/20 and 2020/21*

For question one and two, please refer to **Table One** overleaf which provides the Ministry's ministerial satisfaction and policy quality scores survey results for 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Table One: The Ministry’s ministerial satisfaction and policy quality scores survey results for 2019/20 and 2020/21

2019/20 result	Measure	2020/21 Standard	2020/21 result
4.7/5.0	The score for the Minister’s satisfaction with the services provided by the policy function, based on the common Ministerial Policy Satisfaction Survey and on a five-point scale, will be no less than	4	5/5.0
3.73/5.0	In relation to the quality of policy advice, the average score for policy papers assessed using the common Policy Quality Framework, on a five-point scale, will be at least in relation to the quality of policy advice, the distribution of scores for policy papers assessed using the common Policy Quality Framework:	3.75	3.69/5.0
50% 90% 10%	score 4 or higher, no less than score 3 or higher, no less than score 2.5 or lower, no more than	55% 90% 10%	50% 93% 7.5%

Notes for table:

- The Ministry’s ministerial satisfaction policy quality scores survey scores are in support of Hon Carmel Sepuloni as Minister for Social Development and Employment.
3. *A copy of the assessment panel’s review of your policy papers in 2019/20*
 4. *A copy of the assessment panel’s review of your policy papers in 2020/21*
 5. *A copy of any external reviews done by NZIER in 2019/20 or 2020/21 on the quality of your policy advice*

The Ministry has interpreted the term ‘assessment panel’ as relating to the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) review of our policy papers.

Please find the following documents identified as in scope of your request attached to this response:

- *Policy Quality Framework review 2020 – NZIER report to the Ministry of Social Development, dated July 2020*
- *Policy Quality Framework review 2021 – NZIER report to the Ministry of Social Development, dated July 2021*

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

Furthermore, some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

A small amount of information is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as, if released, it would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information. The greater public interest is in ensuring that the commercial position can be maintained.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(h) of the Act in order to maintain legal professional privilege. The greater public interest is in ensuring that government agencies can continue to obtain confidential legal advice.

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 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 regarding policy quality scores and ministerial satisfaction survey results, 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



Josie Nafatali
Director, Policy DCE Office