



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

4 November 2021

Dear

On 23 September 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *All correspondence with Microsoft about the Be.Lab.*

Please find all email chains held in scope of your request enclosed.

The contact details 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. The principles and purposes of the Act 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
- 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. 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 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

pp. 

Amanda Nicolle  
**Director, Industry Partnerships  
Service Delivery**

**From:** [Chris Denly](#)  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** [Geoff Curtis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MSD/MS Chat - Follow up  
**Date:** Monday, 9 March 2020 11:33:43 am

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Hi s9(2)(a)

My colleague Janet Akeripa has forwarded the below contact for you in regards to contacts in schools. s9(2)(a) is happy for you to contact her directly. s9(2)(a) deals with Maori and Pacific students in south Auckland secondary schools.

s9(2)(a)

More secondary school contacts from Flo Samuels. These people have the direct relationships with the high school principals mostly in South and West Auckland.

s9(2)(a)

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s9(2)(a)

Geoff will be in Auckland next Wednesday 18 March it would be good for you to have a catch up with him re the internship opportunities at Microsoft. I'll leave it with Geoff to coordinate with yourself and Be.Lab and possibly s9(2)(a)

Kind regards  
Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(a)  
Sent: Friday, 28 February 2020 10:36 AM  
To: Chris Denly s9(2)(a)  
s9(2)(a)  
Subject: RE: MSD/MS Chat - Follow up

Kia ora Chris,

Thank you for the update on the awesome opportunities! In terms of the event on 5 May, I suggested to s9(2)(a) that we rename it DigiWāhine (which was an initiative a past intern intended on doing) and she said that's an awesome name!

Yes - s9(2)(a) has taken over s9(2)(a) role as the Accessibility pillar lead I've added s9(2)(a) to this email. Hi s9(2)(a) - see the below from Chris who works for MSD. Would be great to catch up with Geoff re Microsoft internship/employment opportunities with Be.Lab!

s9(2)(a) has been in the US this week so she will be delayed in her replies. s9(2)(a) - see the below for a possible opportunity to collaborate.

Let me know if there's anything you need from me.

Ngā mihi,  
s9(2)  
(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Denly s9(2)(a)

Sent: Thursday, 27 February 2020 12:38 PM

To: s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: MSD/MS Chat - Follow up

Hi s9(2)

I spoke to Be.Lab yesterday. They have a new employment manager starting this Monday (s9(2) is her name) I have stressed I need some urgency over following up with Microsoft opportunities It would be great to catch up with s9(2) (what's s9(2) role in connection to Be.Lab ? has he taken over s9(2)(a) role ) when our AM Geoff is next in Auckland probably in the next couple of weeks. (Geoff manages the Be.Lab account)

I spoke to my Director Amanda Nicolle about s9(2) and she would be really keen to have a discussion around some work we are doing with a social enterprise in the East Coast region. It's on our radar and as soon as I have dates for the Hawkes Bay or if s9(2) is in Auckland let's have a coffee. Amanda is up here every week.

I have updated Flo re the Auckland Digi Girls date 05 May so she is getting things moving her end. I need a bit more context re schools so I can float this with some people.

Off to a staff forum it's going to be a long afternoon Regards Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(a)

Sent: Tuesday, 25 February 2020 4:57 PM

To: Chris Denly s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Subject: MSD/MS Chat - Follow up

Kia ora Chris,

Thank you for catching up with me! Really insightful and I believe there is potential on aligning with our Diversity and Inclusion strategy.

Bare with me, I'm more of a reflective thinker and I've digested what you've said and thought about the potential initiatives that MSD can get involved in.

Accessibility

- Intern hiring programme (core priority) - let me know how the conversation with Be.Lab goes and when I should introduce you to s9(2)

- Invitation to a guest speaker who could share their personal story at one of our internal events e.g. lunch and learn to showcase the impact/opportunity of Accessibility challenges

s9(2), our Philanthropies lead (added into this email) has secured a grant for a mentorship programme, she can talk to this point further.

Māori & Pasifika

- Coaching and mentoring programmes for your clients who are interested to tech as their pathway

- School Shadow Visits per quarter - I believe you have contacts/connections to students from high schools that we are trying to attract

- Viaduct Village Careers Day - I've emailed the team that are organising the event and will let you know. I'll do the write up for you via email so you can circulate it to your contacts

Question:

With the frameworks that you have in place in MSD, how can we leverage what initiatives you are currently doing amongst other organisations that you?

Do think of us if you think there is any room for opportunity to collaborate! I've added s9(2) and s9(2), who lead our Māori & Pasifika team.

Thanks,  
s9(2)  
(=)

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**To:** [Chris Denly](#); s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** [Geoff Curtis](#)  
**Subject:** RE: MSD/MS Chat - Follow up  
**Date:** Monday, 9 March 2020 2:01:35 pm

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Hi Chris,

Thank you so much - I've forwarded the list of contacts to people in our Māori & Pasifika pillar who are in charge of organising the internal school shadow visits

s9(2)(a) has scheduled a meeting with Be.Lab this week so he can be in touch with Geoff after this depending on the outcome of the meeting.

Speak soon,  
s9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: Chris Denly <chris.denly001@msd.govt.nz>  
Sent: Monday, 9 March 2020 11:34 AM  
To s9(2)(a)

Cc: Geoff Curtis <Geoff.Curtis007@msd.govt.nz>  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: MSD/MS Chat - Follow up

Hi s9(2)(a)

My colleague Janet Akeripa has forwarded the below contact for you in regards to contacts in schools. s9(2)(a) is happy for you to contact her directly. s9(2)(a) deals with Maori and Pacific students in south Auckland secondary schools.

s9(2)(a)

More secondary school contacts from Flo Samuels. These people have the direct relationships with the high school principals mostly in South and West Auckland.

s9(2)(a) | Principal Advisor Secondary Tertiary | Youth Guarantee s9(2)(a)  
s9(2)(a)  
12-18 Normanby Road, Auckland

s9(2)(a) | Principal Adviser - Secondary Transitions | s9(2)(a)

These people have the direct relationships with the high school principals mostly in South and West Auckland.

s9(2)(a)

Geoff will be in Auckland next Wednesday 18 March it would be good for you to have a catch up with him re the internship opportunities at Microsoft. I'll leave it with Geoff to coordinate with yourself and Be.Lab and possibly s9(2)(a)

Kind regards  
Chris

-----Original Message-----

From: s9(2)(a)

**From:** [Chris Denly](#)  
**To:** [Chris Denly](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Big Thank you  
**Date:** Wednesday, 29 September 2021 12:22:09 pm  
**Attachments:** [image004.jpg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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**From:** Chris Denly  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 June 2019 11:46 AM  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: Big Thank you

Fantastic thanks for the update  
Chris

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 25 June 2019 11:38 AM  
**To:** Chris Denly  
**Subject:** Re: Big Thank you

Hi Chris,

It was our pleasure - by the by.. I'm currently emailing you from the Be Accessible offices. I am the Microsoft NZ Co lead for accessibility and helped to create the skills for employment programme you're running with them.

Am with them now reviewing opportunities to place candidates with employers and the mentorship and skill up project we are running with the candidates.

Cheers  
s9(2)(a)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Chris Denly s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 25, 2019 11:09:28 AM  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Amanda Nicolle; s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** Big Thank you

Hi Guys  
Thank you so much for accommodating the MSD Industry Partnership national team this morning.  
It was a great experience and quite an eye opener to see how things could work for us and our regions nationally if we can flick that switch.

A great opportunity the team loved it  
Kind regards

Chris

**Chris Denly – Key Account Manager Corporate, Industry Partnerships**

s9(2)(a)

Industry Partnerships, Ministry of Social Development, National Office  
Building A 65 Main Highway Ellerslie.  
Private Bag 68 911, Newton, Auckland 1051

**MSD purpose:**

We help New Zealanders to be safe, strong and independent  
Manaaki tangata, manaaki whānau



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**From:** [Chris Denly](#)  
**To:** [Chris Denly](#)  
**Subject:** FW: s9(2)(a) contact details  
**Date:** Wednesday, 29 September 2021 12:21:18 pm  
**Attachments:** [image004.jpg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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**From:** Chris Denly  
**Sent:** Monday, 14 October 2019 2:04 PM  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: s9(2)(a) contact details

Hi s9(2)  
Sorry to bother you while you are on leave but I am just trying to finalise the agenda for our labour market teams in Wellington for the next 2 days.  
Did you have any luck confirming anyone to come and present to the forum about the skills assessment tool you have implemented with Be.Accessible.  
The timeslot I have available is this Wednesday 16 October 11:30AM – 12:00PM  
Kind regards  
Chris

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**From:** Chris Denly  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 October 2019 3:49 PM  
**To:** s9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** RE: s9(2)(a) contact details

Hi s9(2)  
Thanks for answering the phone even though s9(2)(a).

We have all our MSD regional labour market teams coming together at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington on Tuesday and Wednesday next week. There are around 40 of us in total.

I have a 30 minute slot available from 11:30AM on Wednesday and it would be fantastic opportunity to talk to our regions about the IT skills assessment tool that Be.Accessible have utilised for our health conditions clients.

As we know there have been some amazing success stories from people that have used your tool.

Our regions really struggle screening our clients and referring them to suitable providers and employers and this could be a good opportunity to show case an alternative solution.

Let me know what you think.

Kind regards

Chris

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**From:** s9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 9 October 2019 3:20 PM  
**To:** Chris Denly <[chris.denly001@msd.govt.nz](mailto:chris.denly001@msd.govt.nz)>; s9(2)(a)  
**Subject:** s9(2)(a) contact details

Hi Chris,

Good to catch-up today.

As discussed here are contact details for s9(2)(a) who was our BeAccessible advocate.

I know you have met him before so this is just swapping contact details.

s9(2)(a), Chris is meeting some of the MSD leads next week in Wgtn and will call you to see if you may be in Wgtn – the idea here was maybe you could talk about how MSD and Microsoft partnered with BeAccessible and then talk or demo the tool that was used to baseline peoples skills.

Can you let me know what that tool is – is this something we could make available to MSD?

s9(2)(a)

Microsoft New Zealand

**Chris Denly – Key Account Manager Corporate, Industry Partnerships**

s9(2)(a)

Industry Partnerships, Ministry of Social Development, National Office  
Building A 65 Main Highway Ellerslie.  
Private Bag 68 911, Newton, Auckland 1051

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