



8 August 2022

Dear

On 22 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding the Working for Families (WFF) review:

- *Meeting minutes*
- *The resultant document that went to cabinet following the purpose and principles consultation please.*

With regard to the meeting minutes, you stated that you wish to make a permanent request under the Act to have them released to you on a continuous basis.

Please note that the Act only covers information that exists at the time a request is made. Therefore, future information cannot be requested under the Act. We invite you to get in touch and renew your request whenever you wish to receive more recent information.

The following documents were identified to be within the scope of your request and are enclosed:

1. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 20 April 2021
2. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 11 May 2021
3. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 25 May 2021
4. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 22 June 2021
5. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 6 July 2021
6. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 20 July 2021
7. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 3 August 2021
8. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 31 August 2021
9. Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 15 September 2021

- 10.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 28 September 2021
- 11.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 12 October 2021
- 12.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 9 November 2021
- 13.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 23 November 2021
- 14.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 7 December 2021
- 15.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 15 February 2022
- 16.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 15 March 2022
- 17.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 12 April 2022
- 18.Minutes – *Working for Families Governance Group*, dated 10 May 2022

Please note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. 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.

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.

The information regarding some individuals is 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.

In regard to your request for *the resultant document that went to cabinet following the purpose and principles consultation*, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist as at today. The Ministry intends to report to the Minister for Social Development and Employment in due course regarding the purpose and principles consultation.

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.

The 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 on its 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 the Working for Families Review, 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.

Yours sincerely

PP 

Polly Vowles,
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Welfare System and Income Support Policy