



08 February 2022

Tēnā koe

On 29 October 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), regarding the way the Ministry work in administering Smart Start the following information:

- 1. Any Ministerial Briefings from 1 January 2016 to date relating to Smart Start*
- 2. Any internal reports, memos or papers from 1 January 2016 to date relating to Smart Start to leadership teams, governance groups or similar bodies*
- 3. Any joint papers, updates or briefings from 1 January 2016 to date relating to Smart Start*
- 4. Any Terms of Reference, Memoranda of Understanding and Partnership Agreements between the agencies participating in 1 January 2016 to date relating to Smart Start*
- 5. Any internal communications from 1 January 2016 to date relating to Smart Start*

On 25 November 2021, your request was extended due to consultations necessary to make a decision on your request.

SmartStart was introduced in 2016 as a way to support parents with newborn children to register their child and access relevant government services through a single online tool. This includes accessing products and services provided by the Ministry of Social Development. The intent of SmartStart is to ease pressure on parents trying to navigate government support during an already stressful period.

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

- Memo – Birth of a Child, dated 30 January 2017
- MOU - Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Social Development and the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) Relating to the Sharing of Birth Registration Data
- Memo – DIA Interagency Initiative – SmartStart, dated 19 February 2019
- Internal Ministry emails around the Childcare Assistance Application into the SmartStart platform.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry'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 Smart Start, 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



Jo Herewini
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