



14 March 2023

Tēnā koe

On 14 February 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*Please can you tell me the top ten payees in relation to civil attachment orders against benefits, for the years ended December 2019, December 2020, December 2021 and December 2022. I would also like to know the total amount that was deducted from benefits and paid to each of those payees, in each of those years.*

*In other words, I am requesting a table that shows, of the businesses to whom benefit deductions have been paid by MSD pursuant to civil attachment orders, the ten businesses that are getting the most amount of payments, per year for each of those years (when you look at the aggregate amount of payments to those businesses for each of those years) and the total amount paid to each of those businesses in each of those years by way of deduction from benefits.*

Information about the amount that payees have received in relation to civil attachment orders is not readily reportable, in order to provide this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response about payees and civil attachment orders, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

*Bridget Saunders*

Bridget Saunders

**Manager Issue Resolution – Service Delivery**