



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

30 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 11 October 2023, you emailed two letters to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the draft Briefings to the Ministers (BIM) responsible for Social Development and Youth Development.

It is important to note that the Ministry of Youth Development sits within MSD's Māori, Communities, and Partnerships group. Therefore, my letter is responding to both of your requests noted above.

I am refusing both requests 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.

However, if a decision is made by the relevant Ministers to publish the final BIM, I can provide you with details on how you may access that information. Please let me know if you would like me to do this.

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.

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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus O'Neill', is positioned above the printed name.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services