



11 April 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 20 February 2024, requesting information about Police notifications received by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and warrant to arrest sanctions applied since 2016.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *the number of police notifications the Ministry of Social Development has received of outstanding arrest warrants for MSD clients each year since 2016*
- *the number of police notifications that a client is a risk to public safety since 2016*

Please see **Appendix One** which contains twelve tables of data showing the number of Warrants to Arrest notices of adverse action and Warrants to Arrest Public Risk notices of adverse action received by the Ministry regarding clients since 2016. These tables are broken down by calendar year, benefit type, age group, gender, ethnicity and whether the client has children.

- *the number of warrants-to-arrest sanctions MSD has imposed on clients since 2016*
- *Where available, can the above data please be broken down by ethnicity, gender, year, whether the client has dependent children or not*

Please see **Appendix Two** which contains two tables of data showing the number of Warrants to Arrest sanctions imposed on working age main benefit clients since 2016. These tables are broken down by calendar year, ethnicity, gender and whether the client has dependant children.

- *Where available, can the above data please be broken down by the percentage that the client's benefit was reduced by*

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

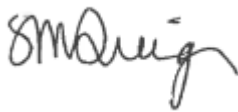
I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request regarding Warrants to Arrest, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**