



19 August 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 22 July 2024, requesting information about the Ministry's baselines savings exercise in Budget 2024 from the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry).

On 26 July 2024, the Ministry contacted you in order to seek a refinement on your request. We advised you that your request was likely to be refused under section 18(f) due to substantial manual collation required in order to provide you with the information requested.

Following some further emails between 29 July 2024- 2 August 2024, you refined your request to the following:

Communications between the Leadership team members in the period 27 November 2023-30 May 2024, in relation the baseline savings for Budget 2024, which raised concerns about the following topics referenced in the Estimates of Appropriations 2024/25:

- 1. Pp196 – Return of Funding - Growing Sector, Community and Provider Capability - Provider and Community Capability (initiative 16116)*
- 2. Pp203 – Reduction in Operating funding - Ministry of Social Development (Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support MCA (M63)) and Income Support and Assistance to Seniors (M63)*
- 3. Pp204 – Reduction in Workforce - Ministry of Social Development- (Improved Employment and Social Outcomes Support MCA (M63)) and Income Support and Assistance to Seniors (M63)*
- 4. Pp205 – Return of Funding for Community Innovation Fund*

On 6 August 2024, the Ministry advised you that based on a sample search on your refined request, no results were found.

We recommended you refine your request to official budget reports/advice to the Minister if you were interested in the discussions of any risks associated with the funding of the above listed appropriations. We have not received a response from you to date.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act on the basis that it requires substantial manual collation. In order to provide you with 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. 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.

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.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, 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



Magnus O'Neill
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