



10 December 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 27 September 2024, requesting information for:

- *All reports, advice, briefings, or other documents held by MSD regarding the Mana Mokopuna budget initiative (referred to as initiative #15484 in the Independent Rapid Review of MSD)*
- *All communications within MSD and between MSD and the Minister's office regarding the above budget initiative.*

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

Each year, when the Budget package is being developed, the Minister for Social Development and Employment (the Minister) will receive information to support face-to-face discussions with Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) officials about the different options that are available.

The Ministry also prepares templates for each initiative and submits these to the Treasury through their CFISnet online portal. CFISnet allocates an initiative ID for each initiative submitted (which is the initiative number you quote). To save time, the Ministry will sometimes upload initiatives to CFISnet before the final package is due, while discussions about the final package are ongoing. Initiatives sometimes need to be withdrawn after being submitted – as in Budget 2024, when a savings bid for Mana Mokopuna was entered into CFISnet and received an initiative ID but was ultimately withdrawn following the Minister's discussions with officials, and prior to finalisation of the Budget 2024 package.

Information about the Mana Mokopuna budget initiative is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Lastly, it may interest you to note that the Ministry proactively released key documents it prepared for the Minister in support of Budget 2024 discussions on

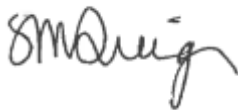
our website, here: [Key Documents - Budget 2024 Information Release - Ministry of Social Development \(msd.govt.nz\)](#).

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, 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**