



23 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your letter of 5 January 2024, requesting information about overseas pensions.

On 13 February 2024 I sent you a letter notifying you of my decision on your request. Please find my full response on your request below.

The letter noted that questions 34, 35, and 36 will be answered separately under the Privacy Act 2020, and you will receive a separate response in due course.

I have considered the remainder of your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), however as I noted in my letter of 13 February 2024, for the Act to apply, the information must already be held by the agency concerned. Except for providing a response to a request for a statement of reasons on specific decisions about the person making the request, there is no obligation for an agency to form an opinion or create information to answer a request in the form of questions or interrogatory.

To confirm, where information to answer your questions is publicly available, I have provided links where possible, for questions 2, 3, 15, and 24. For the remainder of questions 10-13, 17-20, 25-28, 37-46, I am refusing your questions under section 18(d) of the Act as this information is publicly available.

Please see my response to the remaining questions below.

1. Is Vice Saletele a real name or a fake which is known that the Department of Social Development is capable of doing?

This is a real name.

2. It is mention that the Department of Social Development were busy over the covid-19 period with the NZ Government Welfare response work. What is that actually? Describe in detail.

This information is publicly available, please see the following page on the Ministry's website:

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/covid-19/index.html>

3. Did the Department of Social Development received money back of millions of dollars from companies who wrongly got paid during the covid-19 period? Companies like The Warehouse.

This information is publicly available, please see the following page on the Ministry's website:

<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/wage-subsidy-integrity/index.html>

4. *Why does the Department of Social Development still using words like "satisfactory" which was in a court case filed as case law for future use?*
5. *Is the Department of Social Development aware that a British Commonwealth exist?*
6. *Is the Department of Social Development aware that NZ law is for NZ sovereignty only?*
7. *Is the Department of Social Development aware that US law is not under British Commonwealth law?*
8. *Is the Department of Social Development able to name countries under the British Commonwealth who have signed a tax agreement? If yes name them.*
9. *Is the Department of Social Development able to identify countries who received a pension payment. If yes name them*
14. *Is the Department of Social Development able to understand humanity?*

As noted above, requests under the Act must be for information that is already held by the Ministry. These questions are seeking explanation or opinion from the Ministry and are therefore not requests under the Act. The Ministry has no comments to make in response to these questions.

15. *From where did the Department of Social Development get the address Ruhrstrasse 2 10709 Berlin Germany from?*

16. *Is the address legally acquired for example by writing to the German embassy?*

This information is publicly available. The address comes from the Germany Pension Authority's (Deutsche Rentenversicherung) website. Please see the following link:

https://www.deutsche-rentenversicherung.de/Bund/DE/Beratung-und-Kontakt/sicherheit_post.html

21. *Did the Department of Social Development address internally behaviour issues by staff? Like do not give vulnerable people a trespass notice?*

Clients who are dissatisfied with the way they have been treated by Ministry staff are able to lodge a complaint. The Ministry will assess the complaint, and any staff behavioural issues identified will be addressed as appropriate.

More information about making a complaint can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/complaints/

The Ministry has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 to ensure the health and safety of staff and other people such as clients on their sites. A security incident occurs where there is behaviour which poses a health and safety risk to staff and other persons at Ministry sites, including cases of assault, property damage or theft, intimidating or threatening behaviour.

In the event of a security incident the Ministry may issue a trespass notice under the Trespass Act 1980 once the situation has been deescalated. The responsible manager must take a safety and risk-based approach to ensure all other considerations are covered in determining if a trespass notice is the appropriate action.

Clients issued with a trespass notice may appeal the decision in writing. The Ministry will then conduct a review of the request and determine whether the notice will be revoked.

Trespassed clients may be encouraged to appoint an agent to manage their business with the Ministry on their behalf. A trespass notice does not prevent clients from communicating by phone, MyMSD, letter or email.

More information for trespassed clients can be found here:

<https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/about-work-and-income/our-services/information-for-trespassed-clients.html>

22. How often do front personal in the Department of Social Development attend courses dealing with humanity?

All courses at the Ministry, including those that can be viewed as related to humanity, are available to staff on demand and according to their individual development plan.

23. How many people work for the Department of Social Development?

24. What is the increase in percentage of people hired during the Covid-19 period? (December 2020 to middle 2022).

The information you have requested is publicly available, however I can confirm that as at 31 December 2023 the Ministry had a reported headcount of 9613 people and full time equivalent (FTE) staff of 9481.6. This is made up of permanent and fixed term employees only and excludes staff on long term leave without pay or parental leave.

You may be interested in the data found on the Public Service Commission's website, which gives the number of staff in all government departments, and the latest annual changes in department FTE staff numbers:

<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/research-and-data/workforce-data-public-sector-composition/workforce-data-workforce-size/>

29. What qualification does the person has who deals with German pension?

Ministry staff are appropriately qualified and/or trained for their roles, including our staff who work in superannuation roles that deal with German pensions.

30. Is Vice Saletele a decision maker?

Vice Saletele is the Manager of Centralised Services Wellington which is responsible for the Community Services Card, Seniors, International Services, and Veteran's Pension Centre.

31. Who is ROD Team Kordia House? (attachment9)

The Review of Decision Team at Kordia House is a team of Report Writers responsible for Review of Decision applications. The assigned Report Writer

completes an internal review and sends a report to the Benefits Review Committee for a hearing.

32. Who is Faridah Lee (Report Writer) someone else sign the hardcopy as pp (dubious).

Faridah Lee was a Report Writer and has since left the Ministry. 'pp' indicates the letter is signed on her behalf.

33. Those people according to their webpage are there to make profit. Why do they answer questions regarding superannuation?

33. Superannuation should not be in a profit making environment. If they are than there is a desire to cancel the payments and anything is possible. There is conflict of interest. Explain is matter

The Ministry is a public service department, which is not a profit-making organisation. More information about the public service is available on the Public Service Commission's website at this link:

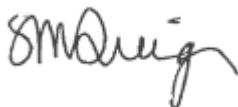
[How the public sector is organised - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission](#)

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.

Yours sincerely

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services