



20 June 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

On 22 May 2024, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet transferred your request in part to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry). Your request related to the advice provided by to the Ministry to Cabinet on the proposed reductions in funding.

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

On 28 May 2024, we emailed you seeking some clarification about the information you were requesting. As we have not received a response from you, I have interpreted your request solely on your initial letter to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

If you were seeking Cabinet papers, your request was likely to be refused as it is Ministers of the Crown who submit papers to Cabinet or Cabinet committees on issues concerning their portfolios. The Ministry considered whether transferring your request to the responsible Minister would have been appropriate, however, we have not done so in this instance, as without refinement is considered too broad in this instance.

I am therefore, refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found. However, I am providing you with links to existing information that may be of interest to you.

The Ministry publishes the titles of reports provided to the Minister for Social Development and Employment each month. I recommend looking through the list as it may assist you in identifying specific topics you may be seeking information on. You can find the link here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/reports-to-minister/index.html.

Following the Government's announcement of Budget 2024, Treasury has published information on its website. You can read more about it also on the Ministry website here: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/budget/2024/budget-2024.html>.

The Budget 2024 website also provides a *Summary of Initiatives* that provides information on the new spending and savings initiatives of each public service

agency, including the Ministry. Further detail on the Ministry's baseline savings target and revenue over the period 2023/24 to 2027/28 can be found on pages 4, and 83-85.

If these interest you, you can find the Budget Economic and Fiscal Update, as well as the Summary on Initiatives at the following links:

- www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-05/befu24.pdf
- www.budget.govt.nz/budget/pdfs/summary-initiatives/b24-sum-initiatives.pdf

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

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Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services