



6 November 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 14 October 2024, requesting information about details of the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry's) supplier agreements with Paul Bird and other telecommunication providers.

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

The Ministry does not have a supplier agreement with any of the companies listed in your request. We do, however, have a supplier relationship with Paul James Samuel Bird, under the registered name of Greater Bay Telecom.

The supplier relationship we have with Mr Bird is the same as our other Hardship Suppliers. When people apply for hardship grants, payments are made by the Ministry to Hardship Suppliers on behalf of our clients.

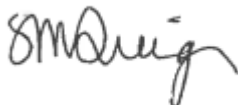
We can advise that no payments have been made on behalf of our clients to the registered supplier Greater Bay Telecom in the period January 2021 – September 2024.

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