



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

11 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 13 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I am writing to you under the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982 to request specific information regarding the following matters:*
- *Please provide me with the total amount of funding allocated for the development of Te Reo in your ministry and affiliated organizations since the beginning of the new government in 2020, along with a breakdown of how this allocated funding has been utilized or distributed.*

The Ministry supports te reo Māori development for our staff members in a number of ways. This includes training and capability, such as online training or localised te reo sessions paid for by budget holders, communications, Māori Employee Led Networks, and celebrations of cultural days.

Te Pae Tata – our Māori Strategy and Action Plan – sets out how the Ministry will work to achieve better outcomes for Māori. You can read more about Te Pae Tata on our website, here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/strategies/te-pae-tata/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/strategies/te-pae-tata/index.html).

The Ministry also provides a proficiency allowance to recognise an employee's competence in te reo Māori. While the proficiency allowance is not within scope of your request, I have provided you with a link to a Written Parliamentary Question answered by the Minister of Social Development which outlines the amount paid in the allowance between 30 June 2021 to 30 June 2023: [www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ\\_22287\\_2023/22287-2023-toni-severin-to-the-minister-for-social-development](http://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_22287_2023/22287-2023-toni-severin-to-the-minister-for-social-development).

Funding is allocated to staff development by budget holders, in discussion with employees. This information is not centrally recorded.

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. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation. 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.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 this response regarding te reo Māori development for Ministry employees, 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



Tony Stenhouse  
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