



13 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 21 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *notes there have been a number of historical OIA's surround the (Gloriavale) Christian Church Community Trust. Could you please confirm if we are able to have copies of the following released documents that are in the public domain?*
 - *Released 15/06/2015: Information around any complaints received about Gloriavale Christian Commune on the West Coast, since 1969*
 - *Released 23/11/2015: All information regarding MSD/CYFs enquiries into the welfare of children at Gloriavale; any children removed from Gloriavale by MSD/CYF with dates and reasons*
 - *Released 17/08/2016: Copies of the information provided to the Ministry of Social Development by the Joint Agency Approach to the Christian Church Community Trust (Gloriavale) - CE*
 - *Released 4/04/2017: What is the cost of the on-going joint agency monitoring of the Christian Church Community Trust organisation (associated with Gloriavale)? - CE*
 - *Released 21/05/2018: All reports created and correspondence sent and received by the Ministry of Social Development regarding Gloriavale Christian Community since January 1, 2018 [CE]*

Please see **Appendices One to Five** for copies of the Ministry's responses to the named requests.

You will note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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 and attachments 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding previous Official Information Act responses, 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



Sarah Quigan
Manager
Official Information Team



15 JUN 2015

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

On 24 April 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information concerning allegations of abuse by ex-members of the Gloriavale community.

As you are aware, there has been recent media interest and coverage about former members of the Gloriavale community. Police have requested that people come forward and report any concerns they may have about their experiences at Gloriavale.

The Ministry of Social Development through Child, Youth and Family works together with the New Zealand Police in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families, and to create safer communities.

Child, Youth and Family and the New Zealand Police have a Memorandum of Understanding which provides a framework for working together. It gives guidance about our roles and responsibilities, reporting processes, the sharing of information, and other factors relating to our shared efforts to keep children and young people safe. Information disclosed between the parties is disclosed in compliance with any relevant legislation, including the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989, the Policing Act 2008, and the Privacy Act 1993.

In cases of alleged abuse involving a child or young person under the age of 17, the New Zealand Police works with victims, their families and Child, Youth and Family to investigate the circumstances of each case and provide an effective response. To ensure a consistent and effective interagency approach to dealing with cases of serious child abuse, the New Zealand Police and Child, Youth and Family have developed the Child Protection Protocol which defines the roles and responsibilities of each organisation when responding to such cases. Under this protocol, the New Zealand Police and Child, Youth and Family must advise each other about a report of concern, make a referral, and then consult on the approach to be taken.

The Child Protection Protocol (CPP) was first signed in April 2010 and signalled the revitalisation and maturity of the close working relationship between Child, Youth and Family and Police. The CPP is central to the investigation and resolution of serious child abuse cases. The CPP sets out the steps to follow when the response requires an investigation. Cases that follow the CPP are:

- serious physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- serious neglect
- serious family violence where the child is a witness

- all allegations against Child, Youth and Family approved caregivers that involve serious child abuse
- all allegations against employees of Child, Youth and Family and the Police that involve serious child abuse.

The purpose of this Protocol is to clearly define the roles of each organisation and set out the process for working together when responding to situations of serious child abuse. It ensures timely, coordinated and effective action by Child, Youth and Family and Police so that children are kept safe, perpetrators are held to account wherever possible and child victimisation is reduced.

The CPP is publicly available on Child, Youth and Family's website at: www.cyf.govt.nz/documents/working-with-others/final-child-protection-protocol.pdf

In relation to concerns about children and young people at Gloriavale, Child, Youth and Family is working closely with Police. As such it is not appropriate for Child, Youth and Family to make any further comment while enquiries are on-going.

Your request for historical information concerning reports of abuse made against members of the Gloriavale community is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act as reports of abuse are held on individual case files and staff would need to manually review thousands of files to identify any cases where a Report of Concern relates to a member of the Gloriavale community. Additionally to accurately provide this would require a consolidated list of all current and former members of Gloriavale which is not held by Child, Youth and Family. 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 request 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.

If you are aware of any specific concerns of abuse or neglect relating to a child or young person living in Gloriavale then I would ask that you please provide details to the NZ Police or Child, Youth and Family on 0508 326 459.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



Bernadine Mackenzie
Deputy Chief Executive, Child, Youth and Family

From: [OIA Requests \(MSD\)](#)
To: s9(2)(a)
Subject: Your Official Information Act request dated 25 October 2015
Date: Monday, 23 November 2015 4:56:00 pm

Dear s9(2)(a)

Firstly my apologies for the delay in responding to your request.

On 25 October 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *All information and numbers regarding MSD/CYFs enquiries into the welfare of children at Gloriavale, and any information regarding children removed from Gloriavale by MSD/CYFs with dates and reasons for the children's removal.*

Every request the Ministry receives relating specifically to individual cases involving Child, Youth and Family is reviewed on a case-by-case basis and takes into account police investigations, relevant privacy considerations and public interest considerations. In the majority of cases it is not helpful for children and families' involvement with Child, Youth and Family to be played out in public. As a result the Ministry does not confirm or deny Child, Youth and Family's involvement with children at Gloriavale.

Your request for all information and numbers regarding the welfare of children at Gloriavale and any information about the removal of children from Gloriavale is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

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WELLINGTON 6143

Nāku noa, na

Official and Parliamentary Information team | Ministerial and Executive Services
Ministry of Social Development

Our Purpose:

We help New Zealanders to help themselves to be safe, strong and independent
Ko ta mātou he whakamana tangata kia tū haumarū, kia tū kaha, kia tū motuhake



17 AUG 2016

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

On 10 June 2016 your request was transferred to the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Information relating to the charitable status of the Christian Church Community Trust (Gloriavale) and related entities.*

I have reviewed the documents that the Ministry holds regarding the investigation of the charitable status of the Christian Church Community Trust (Gloriavale) community. Please find enclosed copies of the following six documents that are in scope of your request.

1. *Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach - Working Group*, dated 20 April 2016.
2. *Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach - Working Group*, dated 7 March 2016.
3. *Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach - Working Group*, dated 7 December 2015.
4. *Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach - Working Group*, dated 9 November 2015.
5. *Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach - Working Group*, dated 5 October 2015.
6. *Joint Agency Meeting: Gloriavale*, dated 30 July 2015.

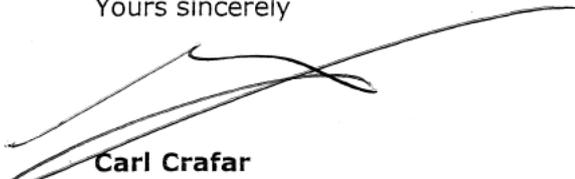
The names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Please note that information that is not in relation to the investigation into the charitable status of Gloriavale is removed as is it deemed out of scope.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely


Carl Crafar
Deputy Chief Executive, Social Housing



child, youth
and family

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Meeting Minutes

Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach – Working Group

Date: 20 April 2016

Time: 3 - 4 pm

Venue: Bowen State Building

Attendees:**Apologies:**

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

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Out of scope

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Item 3 – Agency Updates

Charities Services

- Charities investigation continues

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

[Redacted]

ACTION: Out of scope

- DIA made a request for information from MoE and response was delayed as MOE managed through OIA process

ACTION: Issue to be escalated to s 9(2)(a)

Out of scope

[Redacted]

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Out of scope

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Meeting Minutes

Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach – Working Group

Date: 7 March 2016

Time: 3 – 4pm

Venue: Bowen State Building

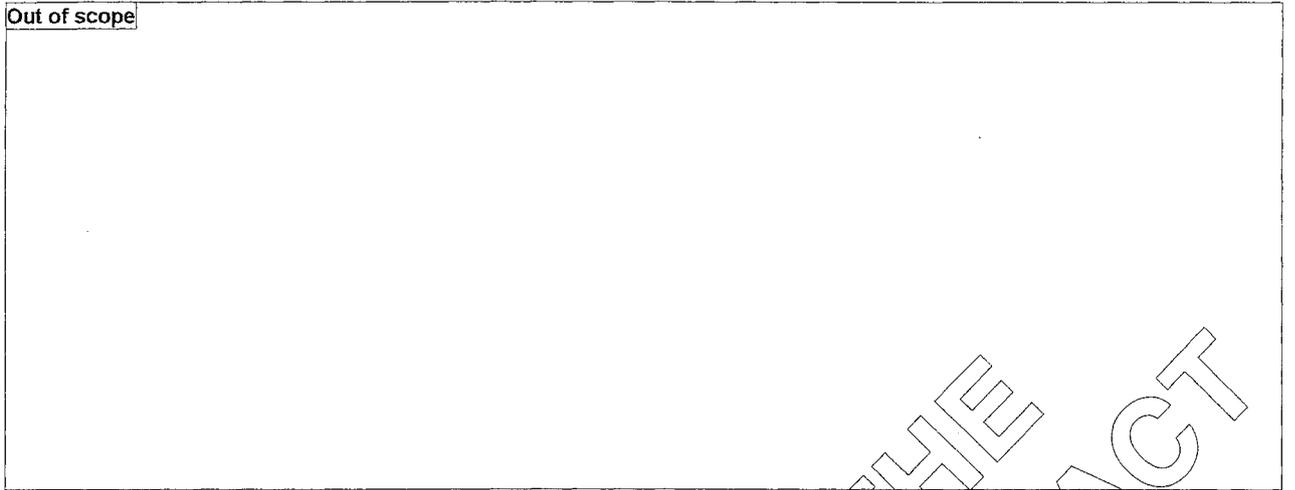
Attendees:

Apologies:

Out of scope

Out of scope

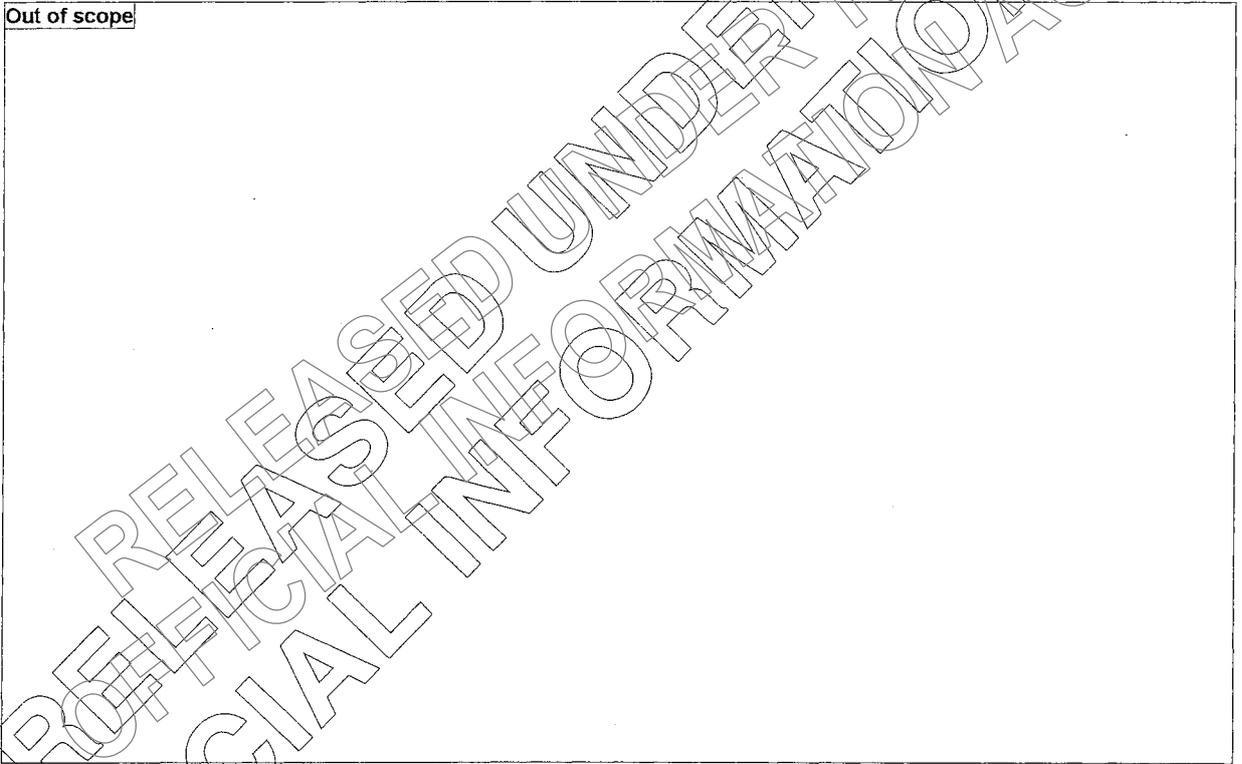
Out of scope



Charities Services:

- Out of scope
- Investigation continues.

Out of scope



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Meeting Minutes

Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach – Working Group

Date: 7 December 2015

Time: 11 – 12 noon

Venue: Bowen State Building

Attendees:**Apologies:**

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

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Out of scope

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Out of scope

Charities Services

- Out of scope
- DIA have received a full response from Gloriavale to their request for information and documentation
- Initial review has identified discrepancies in their records
- On the 19th of January two DIA staff will visit the Community.

Out of scope

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Meeting Minutes

Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach – Working Group

Date: 9 November 2015

Time: 3pm – 4pm

Venue: Bowen State Building

Attendees:**Apologies:**

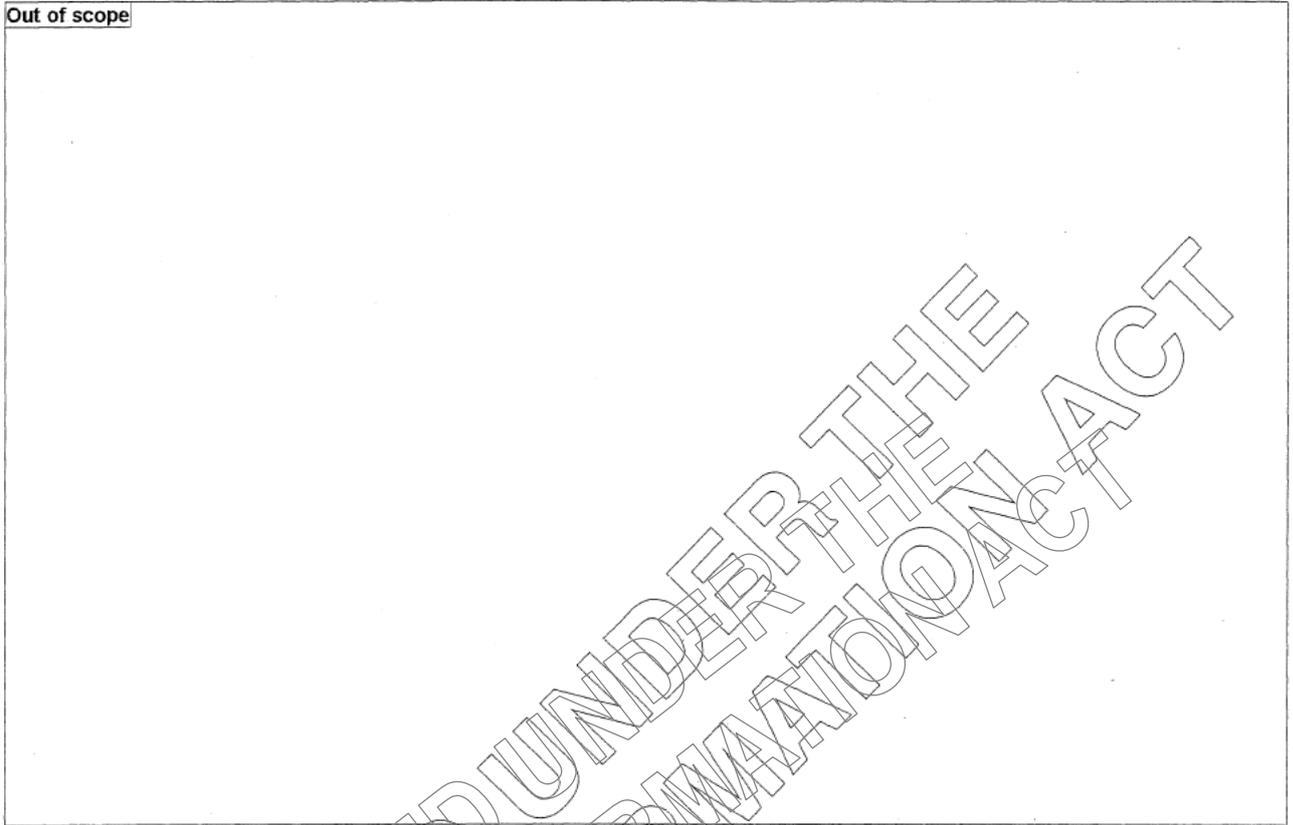
Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

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Charities Services

- DIA have received a response to approximately half of the questions they put to the Community.
- An extension was granted until 13 Nov 2015 for the outstanding information.

Out of scope



Out of scope





Meeting Minutes

Gloriavale Joint Agency Approach – Working Group

Date: 5 Oct 2015

Time: 2pm – 3pm

Venue: Bowen State Building

Attendees:

Apologies:

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

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Agency Updates

Charities Services

- Charities Commission have made a formal request to the Community for information on a range of topics. The Community has 20 days to respond to the s51 request.

Out of scope

minutes



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

Joint Agency meeting: Gloriavale

Date: Thursday 30 July 2015 **Time:** 8.00am – 9.30am

Venue: Ministry of Social Development
Wakatipu room
Level 3
Bowen State Building

Attendees:

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

Apologies:

Action Points

Out of scope

Agenda item discussion

Out of scope

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- DIA advised that they are now at a point with their investigation where they need to contact the community about some inconsistencies with their financial records.

- DIA have some serious concerns – Gloriavale could be deregistered and lose their charitable status. If this happens there may be historical liabilities with Inland Revenue regarding tax.

Out of scope

[Redacted content]

Out of scope

[Redacted content]

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4 APR 2017

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

On 7 March 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding the Christian Church Community Trust Joint Agency Approach (Joint Approach) costs.

The Joint Approach was established in 2015 to identify concerns raised regarding the Christian Church Community Trust. The Ministry of Social Development took a lead role in co-ordinating a joint-agency approach into wide-ranging complaints received about the Christian Church Community Trust.

The Ministry worked with the Police, the Department of Internal Affairs and other government agencies to bring expertise together to assess all areas of concern that had been raised.

Each agency involved in the Joint Approach had its own objectives and associated accountabilities relevant to its specific mandate. As a part of the Joint Approach agreement, each agency was required to source funding for their own participation, from within their own budget.

The Ministry's involvement in the Joint Approach was part of the Ministry's standard business operations. The Joint Approach was not allocated any specific funding. Ministry staff who worked as a part of the Joint Approach also worked on tasks and cases unrelated to the Joint Approach. In order to provide information regarding the Ministry's expenses in relation to the Joint Approach, Ministry staff would have to review the amount of time each employee has spent working on the Joint Approach (which is not tracked by staff) and the corresponding portion of salary, amounting to substantial collation. As such your request for this information is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The Ministry does not hold information regarding funding allocations for any other agency engaged in the Joint Approach. As such your request for the cost of the Joint Approach investigation is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation and therefore cannot be transferred.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request 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.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding the Christian Church Community Trust and the Joint Approach costs with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial & Executive Services

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



21 MAY 2018

s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

On 3 May 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *All reports created and correspondence sent and received by the Ministry of Social Development regarding Gloriavale Christian Community since January 1, 2018.*

No such reports or correspondence exist. As such I am refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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 this response, 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

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Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services