



- 7 MAY 2019

Ti Lamusse  
[fyi-request-10012-059f6a31@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-10012-059f6a31@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ti Lamusse

On 5 April you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. The number of investigations initiated into benefit fraud per annum, as far back as records permit. If possible, please break this down by the ethnicity and gender of the suspect.*
- 2. If possible, please break this down by the type of fraud (e.g. relationship) - The number of charges laid for beneficiary fraud per annum, as far back as records permit. If possible, please break this down by the ethnicity and gender of the suspect.*
- 3. If possible, please break this down by the type of fraud (e.g. relationship) - The total estimated and, if possible, actual cost of beneficiary fraud, per annum.*
- 4. The total amount of beneficiary debt forgiven/wiped per annum, as back as records permit.*

On 23 April 2019 your request was redefined as follows:

- 1. The number of investigations initiated into benefit fraud per annum, as far back as records permit. If possible, please break this down by the ethnicity and gender of the suspect. If possible, please break this down by the type of fraud (e.g. relationship)*
- 2. The number of charges laid for beneficiary fraud per annum, as far back as records permit. If possible, please break this down by the ethnicity and gender of the suspect. If possible, please break this down by the type of fraud (e.g. relationship)*
- 3. The total number of overpayments and the dollar amount of these overpayments as far back as records allow.*
- 4. The total number of debt write offs and the dollar amount of these write offs as far back as records allow.*

This letter is to advise you that the Ministry has received your request, however requires more time to respond to this request. In accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Official Information Act, the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 23 May 2019.

The reason for the extension is that consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz)

I will respond to you sooner if I am able to.



Yours sincerely  
Elisabeth Brunt

**General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services**