



Jan Rivers

[fyi-request-11860-a8250c3e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11860-a8250c3e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Jan Rivers

On 11 December 2019 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- Which organisations lobbied for the Ministry's gender identity changes and over what time period?
- Which community organisations and individuals were consulted and over what time period?
- A copy of any meeting minutes, notes and reports arising from meetings with community groups and communications to the Ministry advocating these changes as well as subsequent policy papers and impact assessments.
- What public notification occurred prior to and during this consultation including notifications to the Ministry website or the govt.nz consultation: "Have your say" website or through social media or newsletters.
- Please advise how the consultation process ensured that the policy framework mandated for use by public sector organisations by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet since July 2019 <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/policy-project/policy-improvement-frameworks/policy-quality> ensured that diverse perspectives were included, ensured that advice was free and frank, mitigated risks, reveals diverse views and explains how the changes will be monitored and evaluated.
- What consideration, if any, was given to including the voices of those who might raise concerns about embedding gender identity in the Social Welfare system.
- Please provide with the impact assessment that was carried out including issues related, but not limited to for example:
  - The impacts on student accommodation.
  - Statistical record keeping for sex equity issues
  - The approach taken to maintaining gender (feeling) as well as sex (biology) related to an individual in the Ministry's records. ie will the system in future occlude the relationship between sex and gender contrary to the approach taken by Statistics NZ.
  - The cost and impacts of the flow through of this decision to other government departments eg IRD, Stats NZ, ACC and the associated costs across government of this decision.
  - The costs to and impacts on third sector organisation in redesigning systems to account for this change and the ability of such services to continue to provide clients with services to women that maintain their

privacy, safety and dignity in line with the Human Rights Act provisions which support sex-based protections.

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 21 February 2020.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Kate Satterthwaite', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Satterthwaite  
**General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services**