

Katherine Raue  
Manager, Transparency NZ  
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Dear Ms Raue

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2013 requesting information on recovery of reparation. Your request has been forwarded to me for a response on behalf of the Ministry of Justice Collections unit.

I understand the purpose of your request is to publish on the website [fyi.org.nz](http://fyi.org.nz). It concerns the conviction of Carterton woman Michelle McGreal in 2010 for benefit fraud and subsequent reparation that was ordered.

**Your questions and my responses are set out below.**

- 1) *Was any attempt made whatsoever to recover any of the money stolen by Ms McGreal and her partner, and if not, why not?*
- 2) *Who prosecuted this matter – the Police or the Crown Law Office, or who?*

The above questions relate to the court record, which is excluded from the Official Information Act under section 2(6)(a). To request this information you would need to write directly to the registrar of the court where the charges were heard. Your request would need to identify the information you are seeking and set out the reasons you require it. The registrar's power to release court record information is discretionary, may require a judicial ruling and may attract a fee.

Some information in relation to this matter may be held by the other party in this matter, the Ministry of Social Development. I am, therefore, transferring that part of your request to the Ministry of Social Development under section 14 of the Official Information Act. Officials from the Ministry of Social Development will respond to this section of your request in due course.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, to seek an investigation and review by an Ombudsman of my decision to transfer part of your request.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Fyfe', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Nigel Fyfe**  
**Deputy Secretary Legal and Operational Services**

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