



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 • Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

-3 FEB 2014

Mr Andrew Crow

fyi-request-1365-a5871b9a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Crow

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2013, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *Total number of OIA requests received from 1 Jan 2013 until today.*
2. *Total number of requests that have required a time extension.*
3. *Total number of requests that have been late in response even after taking time extensions into account.*
4. *Total number of open requests as at today's date.*
5. *Any other data/facts that you feel are relevant.*

The Official Information Act 1982 reflects the democratic principles of New Zealand government. The Act was designed to progressively increase the availability of official information and to:

- increase public interest and understanding of the processes of government, and promote public participation in the making of laws and policy
- promote transparent government and the accountability of Ministers of the Crown and government officials
- protect official information to the extent consistent with both the public interest and personal privacy.

The Ministry of Social Development is New Zealand's largest public service department employing more than 9,000 staff to provide services to over one million New Zealanders each year. The Ministry's Ministerial and Executive Services team supports and assists Ministers, the Ministry's Leadership Team and staff when responding to public interest in the Ministry's work. Its key role is to ensure accountability and transparency of the Ministry and to accurately convey Ministry information to the public in a timely manner.

The Ministry has a centralised system for the management of requests under the Official Information Act 1982, with the exception of client-related requests, such as people requesting a copy of their file. The Ministry tracks and reports on the quality and timeliness of its replies.

I will address each of your questions in turn.

1. *Total number of OIA requests received from 1 Jan 2013 until today.*

Page 1 of 2

The Ministry has responded to 432 Official Information Act requests from the 1 January 2013 to 30 December 2013.

2. *Total number of requests that have required a time extension.*
3. *Total number of requests that have been late in response even after taking time extensions into account.*

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review hundreds of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

5. *Total number of open requests as at today's date.*

As at the 13 December 2013 the total number of open Official requests for Information was 76.

6. *Any other data/facts that you feel are relevant.*

For more information regarding the Official Information Act including the 2012/13 Annual report and the outcomes of investigations please visit: www.ombudsman.parliament.nz

I hope you find this information concerning the Official Information Act 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



Nadine Kilmister
Deputy Chief Executive Corporate and Governance