



Andrew Chen
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19 FEB 2021

Tēnā koe Andrew Chen

On 4 February 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *A list of vendors that have provided data science services to MSD in the last three years.*

On 10 February 2021, you confirmed the Ministry's interpretation of your request for a list of 'data science services' as requesting a list of external providers and vendors that deliver services that the Ministry's internal data science team would usually produce.

The Ministry contracts a number of services for various reasons, and they are not recorded in a way where those who provide data science services can specifically be identified. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review all of the individual contracts the Ministry holds with external providers. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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.

However, the Ministry is able to disclose the following providers who were paid to provide data science services specifically to the Ministry's Client and Business Intelligence team in the last three years, as this information is held by the Data Science and Products team:

- Nicholson Consulting,
- SAS New Zealand,
- Harmonic Analytics, and
- Qrious.

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 external data science service providers, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Lensen', with a horizontal line underneath.

Daniel Lensen
General Manager
Client and Business Intelligence