



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

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

11 AUG 2014

Ms Donna Wynd
Child Action Poverty Group
donna@cpag.org.nz

Dear Ms Wynd

Thank you for your email of 14 July 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information on the Relationship Status Verification form that is required to be completed by a third party when someone applies for Sole Parent Support, specifically:

1. *What is the legal basis for this form?*
2. *How long has this form been used by Work and Income to assess eligibility for Sole Parent Support?*
3. *What legal and other advice did the Minister receive in respect of the introduction of this form for Work and Income clients?*
4. *What is the legal status of this form?*
5. *What is the legal liability of an individual who completes this form, and what is the basis of that liability, if any?*

This letter is to advise you that the Ministry will provide a response but needs to extend the time available to answer your request. The Ministry's response will be with you no later than 29 August 2014.

The reason for the extension is that the Ministry needs further time to consult with other parties on the release of the information you have requested. These other parties may be affected by the release of the information and I need to provide them with an opportunity to identify any prejudice that might arise from its release before I make a final decision.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision to extend the time by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

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

Yours sincerely

Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services