



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

20 September 2022

Mr Harry Peterson
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Tēnā koe Harry Peterson

On 24 August 2022, your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, for the following information:

- *All documents and Cabinet papers mentioning Whangārei in relation to infrastructure and health funding decisions from the date beginning October 2017."*

The Ministry is the lead agency for the social sector. We work directly with New Zealanders of all ages to improve their social wellbeing. The Ministry helps the Government to set priorities across the sector, co-ordinate the actions of other social sector agencies and track changes in the social wellbeing of New Zealanders, provides policy advice and delivers social services and assistance to young people, working age people, older people, families, whanau, and communities.

It isn't the role of the Ministry to be involved in infrastructure and health funding decisions in relation to Whangārei. The Ministry does have offices in Whangārei that are set up to deliver social services and assistance to its clients.

Your request for the documents and papers containing the information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and

- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. 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 about Cabinet papers mentioning Whangārei in relation to infrastructure and health funding decisions, 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



Megan Beecroft
Director
DCE Policy Office