



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140
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30 SEP 2014

Mr Anthony Jordan
fyi-request-1987-47b51d47@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

Thank you for your email of 4 September 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding Dr John Lewis Collier:

- *Copies of contracts since 2000.*
- *A description of work carried out by Dr Collier.*

The Ministry of Social Development does not contract directly with medical practitioners. As such, your request for contracts between Dr Collier and the Ministry is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist. Many people receive services from medical practitioners for which the cost is met directly or indirectly by the Ministry. People are referred to respected medical practitioners or are able to select a practitioner of their choice from approved lists, boards and organisations.

I can confirm that Dr Collier is an approved designated doctor with the Ministry and has provided assessments for beneficiaries. Work and Income uses a list of approved designated doctors to obtain independent medical opinions. The provision of a second opinion assists Work and Income to determine a person's capacity for work and entitlement to financial assistance. More information regarding designated doctors is available on the Work and Income website at:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/community/health-and-disability-practitioners/designated-doctors.html

Dr Collier has also provided doctor's reports for overseas pension eligibility. Senior Services – International (SSI) assists overseas agencies responsible for determining eligibility to a Disability or Invalid pension by collecting information about an applicant's medical conditions. To this end, SSI arranges for applicants to attend assessments, and then supplies this information to the relevant overseas agency.

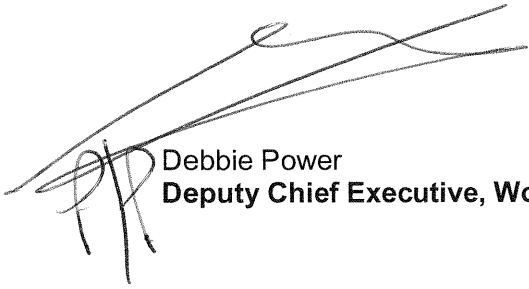
I am unable to tell you the number of times that Dr Collier has been used as a designated doctor or provided reports for overseas pension eligibility, as this information is not held centrally.

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I hope you find this information regarding Dr Collier 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DP', is written over a large, sweeping horizontal line that spans across the signature area.

Debbie Power
Deputy Chief Executive, Work and Income