



19 May 2023

Kent H

Tēnā koe Kent H

On 29 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

How many employees currently have a qualification in gender studies?

It is optional for employees to disclose their educational qualifications, and this information is held in individual employee profiles. To retrieve this information, Ministry staff would be required to manually go into each employee profile to see if they have listed an educational qualification in gender studies.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, on the basis it would require substantial manual collation to find the information in scope. 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.

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

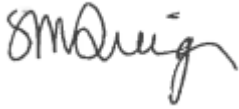
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 regarding employees with a qualification in gender studies, 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 black ink, appearing to read 'S Quigan', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Quigan
Manager
Official Information Team