



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

19 January 2024

T Murray

fyi-request-25008-59a45d47@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe T Murray

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 3 December, requesting information about the initial meeting with the Minister for Seniors. I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

1. The date, time and location of your initial meeting with the new Minister for Seniors for your department

The meeting took place on Thursday 30 November 2023, from 1.00pm to 2.00pm, in Room 2-601 of the Parliament Buildings.

2. A list of attendees at this meeting

- Debbie Power, Chief Executive
- Simon MacPherson, Deputy Chief Executive, Policy
- Sarah Palmer, Acting General Manager, International, Disability and Generational Policy
- Diane Turner, Director, Office for Seniors

3. The cost of any flights and accommodation for staff who reside outside of wellington to attend this meeting

No attendees of this meeting were from outside of Wellington, so no costs were incurred.

4. Any documentation provided at the meeting

This request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested will soon be publicly available. This information will be published as soon as possible this year.

5. All notes (including handwritten notes) taken at the meeting by department staff.

Under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, please see the summary below of the notes taken at the meeting.

Discussed items:

- The Government 100-day plan will be the primary focus.
- The key objective will be very clear accountability. Considerations include:
 - A hands-on approach, and delivery orientated.
 - Organisational charts. Relationship of portfolio to commissioners and key agencies.
 - Best service delivery and on the ground staff.
 - Engagement with providers, stakeholders and other groups.
- Hon Costello's potential Associate Minister for Health roles that could relate to her Minister for Seniors role and related issues: dementia, aged care, subsidiary dwellings.
- The review of the Retirement Villages Act is a priority.
- The Minister's preference for communications moving forward:
 - Meetings – Minister interested in delivery focused discussions.
 - Paper copies of reports.
 - Transparency in all matters – no surprises.
 - Open to new ideas and initiatives.
- Would like to work closely with local councils on all issues.

Interested in further information regarding:

- Level of engagement with the Office for Seniors website and other communication channels.
- Retirement Villages.
- Information about:
 - Recurring issues.
 - Role of the Aged Care Commissioner
 - Role of the Retirement Commissioner.
- Age friendly city programme and councils:
 - Any links to the rates rebate scheme?
 - What did they sign up to deliver?
 - Local council capacity to deliver.
 - Information of age friendly grants.
- Dementia care, in-home care support – issues such as how places are allocated, funding, relation to hospital care and programme costs.
- Details on the Budget, about what is being spent and where.

- Māori Health Authority, including aged care capability and targeted delivery of services.
- Elder abuse – the Minister also has Associate Police portfolio and would like to see elder abuse data.
- Gold Care – link to manifesto and coalition agreements. Opportunities for discounts or advantages.

6. A copy of any emails sent by department attendees or all staff communications regarding the meeting with the new Minister for Seniors

Please find attached **Appendix One**, which contains copies of emails sent regarding the meeting.

You will note that email addresses and contact details of staff have been redacted under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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



pp.
Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services