



15 MAY 2015

Mr Anatoly Kern
fyi-request-2611-39d7fced@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Kern

On 16 April 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding requests to correct information on Child, Youth and Family records.

Recording is a vital element of good social work practice and is an important aspect of child protection and youth justice social work. While a lot of information may be considered recordable, there should be a focus on recording personal and demographic information about children/young people and their families, key decisions that are made, the views of the child/young person and their families, plans, reports and records of Child, Youth and Family's role in the child or young person's life.

Principle 7 of the Privacy Act 1993 gives individuals the right to request the correction of information that is held about them by an agency. While staff strive to ensure the accuracy of records held by Child, Youth and Family, there may be instances where information may be transposed incorrectly or where a person is unhappy with information that is recorded on a file.

When information is transposed incorrectly, such as a date of birth is incorrect or a name is spelt wrong, Child, Youth and Family will amend the record to ensure this is correct.

Where an individual is unhappy about the information held about them, but the information is deemed to be an accurate record of what Child, Youth and Family was told, the record may not be changed but a statement of correction will be attached to the relevant record. This statement of correction can then be read in conjunction with the original record.

The Ministry is not able to report on the numbers of requests to correct information on Child, Youth and Family files, therefore questions one, two, three, four and six of your request are refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist.

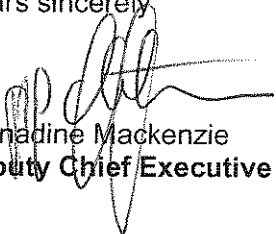
Statements of correction are held on personal files and not recorded in a central repository. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, question five of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. 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.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful on this occasion. 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



Bernadine Mackenzie
Deputy Chief Executive Child, Youth and Family