



OIA-CE-2024-02528

19 September 2024

Tom (FYI)
fyi-request-27978-46008aa3@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Tom,

Thank you for your email, received on 19 August 2024, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information about Oranga Tamariki funding to providers. You then clarified your request on 22 August 2024 to specify your request for information on Barnardos NZ and Family Start for the previous two financial years. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You requested:

- *Funding allocated to Barnardos NZ and Family Start per year for the previous two financial years.*
- *Whether this agreed funding has at this point in time (22/08/2024) been allocated in full.*
- *Whether this funding has been allocated to Barnardos NZ and Family Start prior to the start of each new financial year (30 June 2023 and 2024), **OR***
- *Whether OT has failed to hand over funds to its providers in a timely manner, or at an agreed date, or at the date expected by Barnardos NZ and Family Start.*
- *Whether Oranga Tamariki is currently holding funding which has been allocated to providers, but not yet been transferred to those providers. If so, what is the dollar value of this.*
- *All correspondence between OT and Barnardos NZ and Family Start regarding the impacts of funding cuts*
- *All correspondence between OT and Barnardos NZ and Family Start regarding funds which providers are expecting*

I have responded to each of your requests below.

- *Funding allocated to Barnardos NZ and Family Start per year for the previous two financial years.*
- *Whether this agreed funding has at this point in time (22/08/2024) been allocated in full.*

IN-CONFIDENCE

- *Whether this funding has been allocated to Barnardos NZ and Family Start prior to the start of each new financial year (30 June 2023 and 2024), **OR***
- *Whether OT has failed to hand over funds to its providers in a timely manner, or at an agreed date, or at the date expected by Barnardos NZ and Family Start.*

Oranga Tamariki contracted with Barnardos to deliver services, including Family Start, in the previous two financial years. For the 2022/23 financial year they were allocated \$17.2 million and for the 2023/24 financial year they were allocated \$16.5 million.

Oranga Tamariki are still in negotiations with Barnardos on services, including Family Start, to be contracted in the 2024/25 financial year.

Oranga Tamariki contracted 44 providers, including Barnardos, to deliver Family Start services in the previous two financial years. For the 2022/23 financial year they were allocated \$55.7 million and for the 2023/24 financial year they were allocated \$54.1 million.

As these negotiations are currently underway this information is withheld under section 9(2)(j) as to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial negotiations.

For some of our large national providers, negotiations and agreement on the services being contracted each year have not been formally agreed and finalised at this time.

We advise that we have not failed to hand over funds to its providers in a timely manner, or at an agreed date, or at the date expected by Barnardos NZ and Family Start. Funds have been provided following negotiation and agreement on payment amounts at year end.

- *Whether Oranga Tamariki is currently holding funding which has been allocated to providers, but not yet been transferred to those providers. If so, what is the dollar value of this.*

We advise that Oranga Tamariki is **not** currently holding funding that has been allocated to providers. We have provisioned and contracted service funding and transition funding available is still to be negotiated.

- *All correspondence between OT and Barnardos NZ and Family Start regarding the impacts of funding cuts*
- *All correspondence between OT and Barnardos NZ and Family Start regarding funds which providers are expecting*

Responding to this part of your request would require manual collation of the significant amounts of materials provided to and received from Barnardos and our Family Start providers at both the Oranga Tamariki National Office and across many regional sites. As the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act.

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Please see attached as **Appendix One** a letter dated 21 August 2024 and a FAQs sheet that I sent to the Family Start Providers Collective, including Barnardos in its capacity as a Family Start provider, regarding Oranga Tamariki funding decisions for the 2024/25 financial year. The purpose of the communication was to advise providers that they would be receiving a letter, if they hadn't already, from their respective contract managers confirming the Oranga Tamariki investment decisions for the 2024/25 financial year.

I confirm that Oranga Tamariki are in active conversations with Barnardos contracting arrangements for 2024/25 financial year. No formal letter confirming these arrangements has been sent from Oranga Tamariki to Barnardos.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Uarnie-Jane More

Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Enabling Communities and Investment