



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

19 NOV 2015

Mr Lance-Desmond Lavery
fyi-request-3218-57f1c41a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lavery

On 13 October 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *ALL copies of the internal CYF magazine that goes by the commonly referred to name of "NEED 2 KNOW". I also require these copies to be provided electronically, preferably in PDF format.*

You can expect a response to the questions below shortly.

- *Confirmation of whether or not (ALL) potential Child Youth and Family employee's are required by a legislated rule of society which is given the force of LAW (often incorrectly confused as LAW) to swear an Oath of allegiance or state an Affirmation of allegiance prior to commencement of their employment?*
- *If the answer to question (2) is "YES" then I, require a copy of that sworn oath and that affirmation exactly word for word. I also require the official name/s of the legislated rule/s of society which have been given the force of Law that direct those provisions.*
- *Alternatively if the answer to question (2) is "NO" then I require the official reason as to why it is "NO" and what safeguards, policies and procedure's do Child Youth and Family have in place to ensure that all employed staff (in particular social workers) act within their job description and the bounds of the Law.*

The Need 2 Know document you are referring to is a fortnightly staff newsletter that provides updates and news for staff in their roles as social workers. This is an internal document and is not provided to any outside agencies. Staff access this information through the Ministry's intranet web pages.

Earlier this year the Ministry responded to a similar request for all back issues of the Need 2 Know newsletter. We have provided you with 151 copies that were provided in that response.

In addition to the enclosed Need 2 Know issues, there are a further 41 copies of the Need 2 Know newsletters that are in scope of your request.

The Ministry considers that the 41 issues in the request would require a large amount of manual collation. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient

administration of the public service. The Ministry has considered whether there is a public interest in the release of the Need 2 Know newsletters without the imposition of a charge. The Ministry has concluded that the public interest in this information is met by the availability of information on the Child, Youth and Family website. Information on the Practise Centre website largely reflects what is available in the Need 2 Know newsletters. This information is available from: <http://www.practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/>

The Ministry also produces the Rise magazine and the Social Work Now publications which are externally available to the public on the Ministry's website at: www.msd.govt.nz

If, however, you still require the 41 issues of the Need 2 Know newsletters, the Ministry can provide those, but would fix a reasonable charge in order to make this information available to you. Section 15(1A) and section 15(2) of the Official Information Act allows the Ministry to charge for the supply of Official Information. This is consistent with the Ministry's approach to the previous requester.

In total, 4.2 hours of staff time will be required to prepare this information for release to you. This excludes the first hour of staff time. The total cost of your request for information would be \$319.20 (incl. GST).

You will note these figures have been calculated on very conservative estimates of what work will be involved and do not consider any costs for consultation in respect of the release. Actual estimates would reveal a much larger cost.

Further information regarding charging for Official Information Act requests is available from: <http://www.justice.govt.nz/publications/global-publications/c/charging-guidelines-for-official-information-act-1982-requests>

I hope you find this information 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



Carolyn Risk
Deputy Chief Executive, Organisational Strategy