



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 • Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

**- 1 AUG 2012**

Alex Harris  
[fyi-request-376-e1f6abf5@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-376-e1f6abf5@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Alex

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2012 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*all documents (including advice, briefings, aides memoire, cabinet papers, emails, notes etc) relating to this policy. I am particularly interested in information about the cost of the policy, and on compliance with the Bill of Rights Act.*

The policy work surrounding the drug testing of beneficiaries is being undertaken as part of the second tranche of welfare reforms, with a second Bill being introduced later this year. As such, I am withholding all documents related to this policy development under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as the information relates to work that is under active consideration and where final decisions are yet to be made.

While I understand that there is a significant public interest in this policy, I believe that in this case the public interest does not outweigh the necessity to protect the policy development process. The release of this information would likely prejudice the quality and impartiality of reports and advice generated, and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

I am sorry I can not be of more assistance at this time. 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 Ombudsmen  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Sue Mackwell  
Deputy Chief Executive, Social Policy and Knowledge