



## Office of Hon Paula Bennett

MP for Upper Harbour

Minister for Climate Change Issues

Minister for Social Housing

Minister of State Services

Associate Minister of Finance

Associate Minister of Tourism

Dear Mr Elshaw

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 28 June 2016 asking for:

*On Friday, June 3, 2016, The Prime Minister told media that MSD staff and Salvation Army personnel had visited Bruce Pullman Park and talked to 8 people who refused help.*

*The Prime Minister also asserted that 8 people had been identified at the City Mission in Auckland, and 4 people had "signed up" and got support from MSD staff.*

*I would like to see any correspondence from the Minister, including members of her staff to the Prime Minister or his office staff, regarding these visits, including any txt messages, email correspondence, or official briefings etc.*

*I would also like to know if the Prime Minister visited the office of Minister Bennett between 31 May to June 3 to discuss MSD staff visits to Bruce Pullman Park and City Mission, or if the Minister visited the office of the Prime Minister to discuss these matters from 31 May to June 3.*

I have interpreted your request to mean communication between 31<sup>st</sup> May and 3 June.

Communication between myself and the Prime Minister on this matter has not been retained. However, as I stated in Parliament during Question Time on Tuesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, I told the Prime Minister that the Ministry of Social Development was working in conjunction with NGOs, including the Salvation Army, to reach out to homeless people to see if they could offer assistance. I was not sufficiently clear that MSD was coordinating the activities and making staff available after hours to deal with any issues as they arose.

I am releasing one email between my staff and the Prime Minister's staff that is in scope and it is attached.

Official briefings relating to these mobile squads can be found at: <http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/social-housing/background-documents-shrp-2016.html>

I regularly visit the Prime Minister's office to discuss a variety of matters and the times and dates of those meetings are not always recorded. I may have visited his office on 31 May, but that information is not recorded. I was overseas between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of June.

Yours sincerely

Hon Paula Bennett

Minister for Social Housing

9(2)(a)

**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 June 2016 2:09 p.m.  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** FW: Salvation Army statement

Lucy is calling you

**From:** 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 June 2016 1:59 p.m.  
**To:** 9(2)(a) <[msd.govt.nz](mailto:msd.govt.nz)>, 9(2)(a) <[@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:@parliament.govt.nz)>  
**Subject:** Salvation Army statement

Hi C 9(2)(a) Are you able to clarify?  
This is what the PM said about this (reported on Newshub).

**MSD and the Sallies went around and knocked on eight cars that they could find," (key) says.  
"All eight of those people refused to take support either from Sallies or MSD."**

But the sallies say it never happened.

----- Forwarded message -----  
**From:** Jon Hoyle <[Jon\\_Hoyle@nzf.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Jon_Hoyle@nzf.salvationarmy.org)>  
**Date:** 3 June 2016 at 13:19  
**Subject:**  
**To:**



# Media Advisory

— Wellington, Friday June 3, 2016

## Correction

In the past few days, the Government and a government agency have made statements saying MSD officials accompanied Salvation Army personnel to visit homeless people living in Bruce Pulman Park in South Auckland.

These statements are incorrect.

MSD officials did not accompany Salvation Army social personnel to Bruce Pulman Park last Monday night, as part of the Army's regular visits to the site. The Salvation Army declined the offer by MSD officials to accompany The

Salvation Army as some of these people are very wary of government officials.

The results of this statement, as well as recent images of homeless people living in dire material hardship disseminated by the media, have deeply upset these people and have put the relationship between them and Salvation Army personnel in jeopardy, weakening the Army's ability to assist them.

The Salvation Army does not knock on people's car windows. It has a van from which food, water and toiletries are made available and where access to social services and advocacy can be arranged.

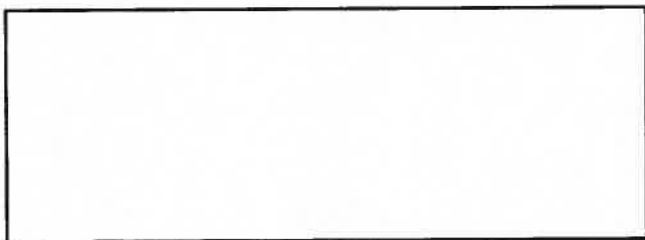
The Salvation Army has spent years developing relationships and building trust with these people living on the outer margins of society – people who often have a deep distrust of officials.

**Enquiries:**

Lt Colonel Ian Hutson  
Director Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit  
027 471 3645

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9(2) (a)



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