

26 JUL 2017

Ms Kristy Merrick  
[fyi-request-5992-3f50eb4a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5992-3f50eb4a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Merrick

On 9 June 2017, you emailed the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki (the Ministry), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *I would like to request documents relating to the Ministry for Vulnerable Children's proposed social investment approach, as alluded to within the Cabinet Social Policy Committee's Proposed Blueprint for Reform and Implementation.*
- *Particularly I am requesting information that relates to a forward liability within the child care system, and the measurement of social and/or economic returns on investment.*

On 30 June 2017, the Ministry sent you a notification of decision, advising your request would be refused in full under sections 18(d) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act. As noted, key information which is publicly available on the Investing in Children Programme can be found online at: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/investing-in-children/new-childrens-agency-established.html>.

A social investment approach for vulnerable children is about developing our understanding of vulnerable people, what their needs are and ensuring the right people are getting the right services. It is also about monitoring progress towards meeting people's needs, so we know what programmes and services are working effectively.

Following recommendations of the Expert Advisory Panel and legislative changes agreed by Ministers, the Investing in Children Programme was formed in April 2016, to lead the fundamental shift required to achieve better outcomes for vulnerable children. This work involves a cross-sector social investment approach, and draws on the experience and expertise of professionals, communities, caregivers, young people and families.

Recommendations developed by the Investing in Children Programme around the social investment approach are currently being considered by the Vulnerable Children Board before it is tendered to Ministers. For this reason your request is refused under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the free and frank expressions of officials.

If you wish to discuss your response relating to family planning and contraception with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@mvcot.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@mvcot.govt.nz)

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 62.

Yours sincerely



Pepi Batsos  
**General Manager**  
**Organisational Support**