



## Prime Minister

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

- 1 MAR 2018

Robert Newcombe  
fyi-request-7070-87e612ab@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: PMO 029-2018

Dear Robert Newcombe

### Official Information Act request relating to Section 70, Social Security Act 1964

Thank you for your emails dated 1 and 8 February 2018 requesting information about section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964. Your requests have been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We have interpreted your request to be for a copy of the Report of the Social Services: *Briefing into pension eligibility and entitlements, including portability*. This briefing was initiated in August 2012 and the Report was published in April 2013. I have enclosed a copy of the Report as the website link is currently not functioning. As this request is seeking information from a period when the Prime Minister was in Opposition, no official information is held by her or her office.

In regard to your request for information relating to the 2007 review of the Social Security Act undertaken by Hon Ruth Dyson as then Minister for Social Development. As reiterated in my earlier letter dated 29 January 2018, the Social Security Act falls within the portfolio responsibilities of the Minister for Social Development and is administered by the Ministry of Social Development. As this part of the request is seeking information from a period when the Prime Minister was not a Member of Parliament, no official information is held by her or her office. If you have queries or comments about this Act, including your questions about the 2007 review or future changes to Act, you may wish to address these directly to that Minister or Ministry.

For completeness, I note that you may write to the Ombudsman about this response. You can contact the Ombudsman online via the Ombudsman website, by email ([info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz)) or by post to The Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143. Further details can be found on the Ombudsman website at: [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Munro'.

Mike Munro  
Chief of Staff, Office of the Prime Minister



## Briefing into pension eligibility and entitlements, including portability

Report of the Social Services Committee

On 22 August 2012 we initiated a briefing into pension eligibility and entitlements, including portability, to gather information because we were considering whether to initiate an inquiry into overseas pension policy under the New Zealand Superannuation Scheme, and other pension portability issues related to section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 (Rate of benefits if overseas pension payable).

Some of us were concerned that the direct deduction policy might have been applied inconsistently. This policy can reduce entitlement for New Zealand superannuitants if they are also entitled to an overseas public or private pension, or if their partner receives an overseas pension.

We considered reviewing the application of the direct deduction policy, the entitlement of superannuitants to receive gross New Zealand Superannuation overseas regardless of whether another country deducts tax from their entitlement, and the deduction from the entitlement of people whose partners receive overseas pensions.

We wrote to the Minister for Social Development asking for a summary of any changes to pensions, particularly regarding eligibility and entitlement, the direct deduction policy, international portability, active and pending treaties and reciprocal agreements, public access to information about pensions, and any changes to the scheme since 2007. This information was received as evidence.

The New Zealand Labour Party, the Green Party, and New Zealand First are of the view that the information received confirmed that an inquiry was warranted. The majority of the committee, while sympathetic to the anomalies in the system, decided not to initiate an inquiry. Prevailing fiscal constraints were also a consideration in this decision.

Peseta Sam Lotu-Iiga  
Chairperson