

Mr Jason McIntosh  
[fyi-request-7976-ff79d74a@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-7976-ff79d74a@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr McIntosh

Thank you for your email of 1 June 2018 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Witnessing first hand the law breaking , protocol breaching , perjury and forgery that some of your staff commit without a second thought , has the Ministry for Children and the Family court planned for the huge inevitable compensation payments that will need to be made to console its massive list of victims in the future ?*
- *Has senior management considered the huge savings both financial and emotional that could be achieved simply by insisting that the many 'Social Workers' simply obey the Ministries own rules and guidelines?*
- *Why is it usually mandatory for your ministry to invent evidence of immediate danger so that the child is rehoused? Isn't this move supposed to be used as an absolute last resort in your Ministries own guidelines ?*
- *Knowing that a child suffers emotional and often physical harm when removed from its family why does the 'Ministry for Children' remove so many children from loving parents when the Orangi Tamariki Act discourages such emotion torture ?*

Oranga Tamariki has not budgeted for any future compensation payments, and we expect our social workers to work within all relevant rules and guidelines. If your concerns relate a specific incident or incidents involving Oranga Tamariki staff, information about how to provide us with feedback is available online at <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/contact-us/feedback/>.

Oranga Tamariki has a legal obligation to investigate any reports it receives of children potentially being harmed or at risk of harm. In doing this, our primary focus is the well-being of the child. It is illegal to fabricate evidence. Section 113 of the Crimes Act 1961 states "Every one is liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years who, with intent to mislead any tribunal holding any judicial proceeding to which section 108 applies, fabricates evidence by any means other than perjury." If you believe that this has occurred, we would welcome details so that the matter can be investigated.

Information about how Oranga Tamariki works with families is available on our website <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/how-we-get-involved/how-we-might-work-with-you/>.

Removing a child from their parents/caregivers is a significant and traumatic event, undertaken only when children cannot remain safe in the care of their parents/caregivers. Oranga Tamariki social workers follow the policy set out on the Practice Centre at the following link: <https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/policy/seeking-solutions-with-families/resources/pathways-to-care-emergency-actions.html>.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. Oranga Tamariki will do this by publishing this letter on our website.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@ot.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Groom', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Steve Groom  
**General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services**