



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Mr Felix Lee

fyi-request-8654-0266df7e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Lee

On 11 September 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding 'Cheap As' Data:

- 1. What type of financial arrangement does MSD have with the telecommunications providers to provide this service?*
- 2. Please provide the annual costs of "cheap as data" to MSD per financial year from 2016 to now. Please break down the costs for each telecommunications provider.*

'Cheap As' Data was introduced in 2016 as a result of client feedback telling the Ministry that not having data was a barrier for them to use our online services to transact with us. We've removed this barrier with 'Cheap As' Data which allows clients to access online services MyMSD and MyStudyLink at little or no cost from their mobile phone or digital device if they are on Spark, Vodafone, Two Degrees or Skinny mobile networks.

In order to provide the 'Cheap As' Data service, the Ministry has contracts with Spark Digital, Two Degrees Mobile Ltd and Vodafone. The breakdown of the Ministry's spend with the individual providers is driven by our clients' usage of Ministry digital services and which mobile phone provider they use.

The table below includes total costs (GST exclusive) for both the 2017 and 2018 financial years for each provider as at 11 October 2018.

Provider	1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017	1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018
Spark Digital	\$58,860	\$76,280
Two Degrees Mobile Ltd	\$58,924	\$73,766
Vodafone	\$60,615	\$53,000
Total	\$178,399	\$203,046

Note:

- The contact with Spark Digital covers clients on the Skinny mobile network.
- The Ministry has not been invoiced by Vodafone for three months during this period.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding 'Cheap As' Data, 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 or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Merv Dacre', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Merv Dacre
Associate Deputy Chief Executive, Corporate Solutions