



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

-9 AUG 2013

Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 • Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

Ms Leigh Baillie

[fyi-request-963-ce628cbb@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-963-ce628cbb@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Baillie

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*How many child youth and family social workers have been formally charged with presenting false evidence/statements to the family court?*

Child, Youth and Family is a service of the Ministry of Social Development. It protects the safety and promotes the wellbeing of children and young people and employs around 1,300 social work staff in a variety of social work roles including field social workers, supervisors and senior practitioners.

Child, Youth and Family recognises the importance of treating staff fairly and properly in all aspects of employment and has a statutory obligation to be a good employer. In return Child, Youth and Family expects a high standard of behaviour from its employees. All employees are expected to identify with, and have a commitment to the philosophy and values of Child, Youth and Family and to demonstrate that commitment in the performance of their duties.

Child, Youth and Family takes its commitment to provide safe, professional and ethical services to children, young people and their families seriously. It is recognised that social workers are often dealing with vulnerable clients and that allegations of misconduct should always be reported and investigated thoroughly. This is a protection for both our clients and staff.

I can advise that the Ministry holds no record of any staff member being formally charged with presenting false evidence or statements to the Family Court. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act. This section applies where the requested information does not exist or cannot be found.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

Bernadine MacKenzie  
**Deputy Chief Executive Child, Youth and Family**

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