

8 March 2019

A.S. Higgins  
fyi-request-9658-7886f7f0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201900897

Dear A.S. Higgins

**Response to your request for official information**

I refer to your request of 25 February 2019 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

*"I wish to obtain a breakdown of all the fields which make up the Socrates database. E.g "Gender" "DoB". along with any definitions which define the parameters of each field"*

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to research and collate the information you have requested, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) is refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

The information on 'fields' you have requested can only be currently supplied by manually searching through hundreds of fields of data in Socrates and manually recording each item. There is currently no automated process in place to run the list and produce a report of all the data fields. Additionally, information on the descriptor would also have to be manually added to each of the fields identified, as this is not information the Ministry routinely records.

While we cannot meet your request, if it would be helpful, someone from Disability Support Services could make contact with you to discuss your information needs from the Socrates database. Please contact us if you wish to take up this offer of assistance.

You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made on this request.

Yours sincerely



Nick Allan  
**Manager OIA Services**  
**Office of the Director-General**