

Katherine Raue
Manager, Transparency NZ
fyi-request-1288-247ac80e@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Raue

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2013 requesting information on recovery of reparation. Your request has been forwarded to me for a response on behalf of the Ministry of Justice Collections unit.

I understand the purpose of your request is to publish on the website fyi.org.nz. It concerns the conviction of Carterton woman Michelle McGreal in 2010 for benefit fraud and subsequent reparation that was ordered.

Your questions and my responses are set out below.

- 1. Was the person named in this report, Michelle McGreal, required by the Court to repay any of the \$77,800 she was convicted of defrauding the Ministry of?*
- 2. Did the Ministry seek payment of any of the \$77,800, either through the Court process or in any other way?*
- 3. If so, how much was the person named in this report required to pay?*
- 4. How much if any of the \$77,800 has been repaid?*

The above questions relate to the court record, which is excluded from the Official Information Act under section 2(6)(a). To request this information you would need to write directly to the registrar of the court where the charges were heard. Your request would need to identify the information you are seeking and set out the reasons you require it. The registrar's power to release court record information is discretionary, may require a judicial ruling and may attract a fee.

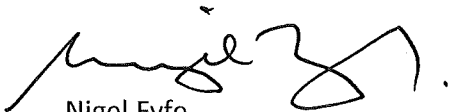
5. Did the Ministry of Justice or any other party to these proceedings make any attempt whatsoever to seek repayment of any of the \$77,800, and if so, how much was sought and how much has been paid, and if not, why not?

Part of this question is considered court record and is not subject to the Official Information Act, as set out above. The rest of the information is not held by the Ministry of Justice. I am, therefore, transferring that part of your request to the Ministry of Social Development under section 14 of the Official Information Act. Officials from the Ministry of Social Development will respond to this section of your request in due course.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, to seek an investigation and review by an Ombudsman of my decision to transfer part of your request.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Fyfe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Nigel Fyfe
Deputy Secretary Legal and Operational Services

Ref: 2013-0645 / OIA 2013 46794