



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Tom Williams

fyi-request-14766-05dca74c@requests.fyi.org.nz

19 MAR 2021

Tēnā koe Tom Williams

On 25 February 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Can you please give me a summary of all dealing with MSD by Christopher Bishop (DOB: 4/9/1983, Occupation: Member of Parliament, Address: Petone) and his direct family.*
- *Normally this would be a privacy issue but given Christopher's parliamentary written question "4591 (2021)" and others (https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/order-paper-questions/written-questions/document/WQ_04591_2021/4591-2021-chris-bishop-to-the-minister-for-covid-19), he clearly considers MP's and MP's families private dealing with government departments to be public information.*

The Ministry has interpreted your request for all dealings with the Ministry made by Christopher Bishop in his capacity as Member of Parliament.

The Ministry has done an extensive search for the information that you have requested. The correspondence that is in scope of this request is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Mr Bishop has assisted members of the public and requested information on behalf of them. This correspondence is refused, as releasing this information could identify the individuals involved. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

In regard to requests made under the Act that have been submitted by Mr Bishop, as a Member of Parliament, please see below the summary of the requests:

- request for information regarding the use of Ministry money for an event, gym fees and special achievements or circumstances,
- request for information relating to an external contracted group, and
- four requests for information around Emergency Housing, Transitional Housing or the Social Housing register for the Hutt Valley have been made.

Regarding personal information held by the Ministry for Mr Bishop and his immediate family, this information is or would be withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of the individual outweighs any public interest in this information. This does not confirm nor deny the existence of this information as per section 10 of the Act.

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The same applies to any further information, for example, financial information possibly held by the Ministry regarding Mr Bishop. This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act for the same reason.


The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' and 'S' followed by a long horizontal line.

Kate Satterthwaite
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services