

31 March 2014

Joshua Grainger  
[fyi-request-1503-ae30e282@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-1503-ae30e282@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Grainger

Thank you for your email dated 3 March 2014 in which you request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) copies of the Department's Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) and other similar documents.

We are emailing to propose that your request is redefined to ensure it can be fulfilled. The Department maintains relationships with a number of external organisations. Some of these are formalised through MoU and Operational Level Agreements (OLA). These agreements formalise functional relationships and determine the level of services that will be provided between each agency. Some agreements will be supplemented by more detailed protocols about certain issues, such as information sharing.

We believe that the scope of your request is wide and to fulfil it in total, including copies of all MoU and other similar documents (Service Level Agreements), would generate the collation of a substantive volume of material. It is likely that your request would be declined under section 18(f) of the OIA that relates to the information requested cannot be made available without substantive collation.

However, we are able to provide copies of the Department's current, working MoU, with some government agencies. We would appreciate a response acknowledging that you approve the Department's proposal that your initial request is redefined as outlined.

Furthermore, the Department needs to extend the timeframe under section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA, as consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit. Therefore, we seek a further 20 working days, which extends the due date to 1 May 2014. However, we will endeavour to provide a response to you earlier than the due date.

You will be aware that extensions are permitted under the OIA, and that you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to investigate the Department's extension of time.  
Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie Miller', written over a circular stamp or mark.

Julie Miller  
Manager  
Ministerial Services