



21 October 2021

Ref: OIA 2122-0762

Victoria Munnin

Email: fyi-request-16957-5aae4fdf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Victoria

Thank you for your email of 30 September 2021 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Kindly provide all relevant documentation - papers, discussion documents, meeting notes, emails, or any other relevant information - about implemented and planned co-funding arrangements with Microsoft that the ministry has entered into since the last general election.*
- 2. Please include a list of all beneficiary organisations, companies, NGOs, or collectives, or co-partners, for each co-funding arrangement, as well as their financial plans and data on Microsoft and the Ministry's provision of funds to them.*
- 3. Please note when the Ministry first entered into discussions with Microsoft about co-funding arrangements, and include any strategy documents or discussion documents that arose from those discussions (also providing those).*
- 4. If there are overarching documents about this new social and economic model that the Ministry has produced, or has been guided by and produced by another Ministry, business or institution, and list the names of those documents, briefly describing the contents of each.*
- 5. Finally, please provide a list of all of the other technology companies that the Ministry has discussed the same co-funding arrangements with.*

On 14 October 2021, we sought clarification from you on whether you had any specific arrangement, project, or area of interest regarding MBIE's activity in mind when making your above request. This was because, while there are a range of MBIE interactions with Microsoft – both as a supplier of services, and a major international technology company – none of the MBIE interactions would constitute co-funding arrangements to date.

In the same correspondence we advised you that, in the specific circumstance where you might provide clarification to your request and a transfer was then required, we would wish to extend the 10 working day time limit available to make a transfer until 29 October 2021 – to allow us to conduct that transfer as soon as possible after receiving clarification from you.

We asked that you provide clarification to us on or by 11:59pm Sunday 17 October 2021 and advised that, if we did not hear from you by then, we would proceed with the most obvious interpretation of your request.

We have not heard from you by 17 October 2021, therefore please find our response to your request outlined below.

Response

We have interpreted Question 4's wording ('this new social and economic model') and Question 5's wording ('the same co-funding arrangements') to be in direct reference to the co-funding arrangements you seek in Question 1.

While you have not provided us with a clarification, we are transferring your request to Te Tari Taiwhenua | Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). Despite the broad wording of your request, upon consideration we believe the information to which your request may relate is not held by us but is held by – and more closely connected with the functions of – the DIA. In these circumstances, we are therefore required by section 14 of the Act to transfer your request.

You will hear further from the DIA concerning your request. You can contact the DIA via email at OIA@dia.govt.nz or phone call on 0800 25 78 87.

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 freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

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