



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140
• Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

25 AUG 2014

Ms Keri Eagan
fyi-request-1852-13e811113@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Eagan,

Thank you for your email of 29 July 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. In the years 2004 - 2013 inclusive how many clients in each year had internet costs accepted by Work and Income as a disability related cost?
I understand that your system may have difficulty searching for this particular expense because it may be listed under another heading in SWIFT. If this is the case could you please indicate if the ministry intends to list this expense under its own category in the future?*
- 2. How many clients had disability costs approved by the ministry that exceeded the limit of the disability allowance for each of the years 2008 - 2013 inclusive?
Please exclude costs covered by Disability Allowance/Counselling.*
- 3. For each of the years 2004 - 2013 inclusive how much did the ministry spend on Disability Allowance/Counselling? Please exclude other disability related costs including transport to see a counsellor.*
- 4. In New Zealand anybody can legally call themselves a counsellor and accept clients for therapy.
What safeguards (if any) does the ministry have in place to ensure that clients are not being exploited financially and in other ways by counsellors who are not members of the approved associations but have falsely represented themselves to be in order to have sessions funded or subsidised through Work and Income?*
- 5. Have any of the counsellors who have made false declarations on a Disability Allowance/Counselling form in order to obtain funding been prosecuted by the ministry?*
- 6. Does the ministry have any information regarding the forward liability of clients exploited in treatment by counsellors?*

This letter is to advise you that the Ministry will provide a response but needs to extend the time available to answer your request. The Ministry's response will be with you no later than 22 September 2014.

The reason for the extension is that the Ministry needs further time to consult with other parties on the release of the information you have requested as it involves non-standard reporting. These other parties may be affected by the release of the information and I need to provide them with an opportunity to identify any prejudice that might arise from its release before I make a final decision.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision to extend the time by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

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The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

I will respond to your request for information regarding Disability Allowance sooner if I am able to.

Yours sincerely



AP Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services