



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

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- 1 OCT 2014

Ms Ceri Jenkins
fyi-request-1999-d51c1959@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Ceri Jenkins

Thank you for your email of 10 September 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to know if Cameron Slater was receiving a benefit whilst receiving thousands of dollars from political lobbyists (as detailed in "Dirty Politics" and published e-mails). If so, will Work and Income be prosecuting him for benefit fraud?*

I would like to assure you that the Ministry of Social Development takes benefit fraud very seriously. The Ministry has in place a range of strategies and measures for dealing with such allegations. The National Fraud Investigation Unit (NFIU) and the Integrity Intervention Unit deal with allegations of benefit fraud and abuse of the benefit system and take appropriate action when concerns are raised that compromise the integrity of the benefit system.

Information about suspicions that an individual may be committing benefit fraud can be made anonymously to the Ministry's Allegation Line on 0800 556 006. All allegations of benefit fraud are assessed by the Ministry's investigation team and dealt with appropriately. However, I do have to emphasise that because of privacy constraints, details of any action taken by the Ministry cannot be disclosed without the authorisation of the person in question.

I am unable to provide you with specific information about Mr Slater as it would be a breach of his right to privacy. As such this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

I am sorry I could not be more helpful on this occasion. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

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

Yours sincerely

Debbie Power
Deputy Chief Executive, Work and Income

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