



Office of Hon Paula Bennett

Minister for Social Development
Minister of Youth Affairs

17 JUL 2012

Alex Harris
fyi-request-347-2ccae5f2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

Thank you for your email of 7 June 2012 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *" all advice on this policy. " the government was considering a range of options to deal with the issue of known child abusers or killers having further children - including allowing the Court to direct someone convicted of serious child abuse or neglect or murder not to have more children" ("Govt: Abusers could have children taken away at birth", NZ Herald, 6 Jun 2012).a*

Submissions on the Green Paper for Vulnerable Children closed on 28 February 2012 and over 9,000 submissions have been received.

The Government is now looking at a range of issues and suggested solutions to make a difference for our most vulnerable children. Initiatives to prevent adults who have seriously abused or killed children from causing further harm to children is just one area being looked at as part of the White Paper development process.

Officials have provided me with a range of information and options for consideration as part of the White Paper process. The White Paper is still under development and at this stage it is necessary that I can consider related information in confidence. I believe that releasing any information about proposed options at this time will prevent the White Paper development process and necessary consultations from proceeding in an effective and informed manner.

I am therefore withholding related information under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982 as this information is still under active consideration and no final decisions have been made. The greater public interest in this instance is in the ability of Ministers and officials to consider information in confidence in order for government to occur in an orderly and effective manner.

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 Ombudsmen
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P. Bennett', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Hon Paula Bennett
Minister for Social Development