



07 September 2016

C79762

Paul Matthews  
[fyi-request-4461-1fea333e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-4461-1fea333e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Matthews

Thank you for your email dated 17 August 2016, requesting information about contract arrangements between the Department of Corrections and Pact Group. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The Department engages in a tender process when looking to source providers for services or products.

As a result of the tender process, the Department engaged in a contract with PACT Group to assist with community based offenders. PACT Group has extensive experience in providing long-term community-based residential services for clients with high and complex mental health needs, intellectual disability, and significant behavioural disturbances, including sexual offending. They are an approved provider for the Department of Corrections, having passed our due diligence process. They received comprehensive training from us in the management of high risk offenders and we are confident they were able to safely supervise the offender you refer to in the community.

In addition, PACT is audited under the health and disability sector standards by the Ministry of Health. They have been a certified provider for more than 10 years. PACT are also audited by district health boards and the Ministry of Social Development, and have the highest-level pass in the ACC Workplace Safety Management Practices Audit.

This means that they already have extremely high-quality policies, procedures and systems in place. In their most recent certification audit, the Ministry required no corrective actions due to our high standards.

As you may be aware, as of 22 August 2016, Corrections relocated the offender from Maungaraki to a residence on the grounds of Christchurch Men's Prison. This is an interim arrangement until such time as a further suitable residence can be identified. The offender will continue to be managed by Corrections under the same stringent conditions.

The relocation of this offender became necessary as our service provider's staff had become increasingly uncomfortable with the community's reaction to their presence. Because of this, the service provider regrettably terminated its contract early.

Corrections staff and our provider went to a great deal of care and effort in placing and managing this offender in Maungaraki. Corrections worked closely with other agencies including the Police and the Ministry of Education. The local Council was advised ahead of the placement. Immediate neighbours were notified of the placement at the time the offender moved in, as is the preference with such cases. Corrections took all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the community.

We acknowledge that we can learn from the experience in Maungaraki and identify ways in which we can do this better for concerned communities.

You have asked five questions relating to contract arrangements between the Department and PACT Group. These have been addressed below.

- 1. All documentation in relation to contracting arrangements between the Department of Corrections and PACT Group.*
- 3. Details of all services provided under contract to the Department of Corrections by PACT Group.*
- 5. The total cost to the Department of Corrections for the accommodation, monitoring and management of the convicted child sex offender currently being housed by PACT Group, under referral from the Department of Corrections, in Maungaraki, Lower Hutt.*

Details of the Department's contract with PACT Group are commercially sensitive. Therefore, this part of your request is withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA, to protect information that would be likely to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.

- 2. All internal and external emails, letters, meeting notes or minutes, and any other documentation or correspondence by or with the Department of Corrections, in relation to PACT Group.*
- 4. All internal and external emails, letters, meeting notes or minutes, and any other documentation or correspondence by or with the Department of Corrections, in relation to the decision to house a convicted child sex offender in a residential neighbourhood in Maungaraki, Lower Hutt.*

We cannot readily extract all correspondence or documentation regarding PACT Group or the decision to place an offender in Maungaraki from our electronic records. In order to identify this type of specific information, we would be required to manually review a large number of files.

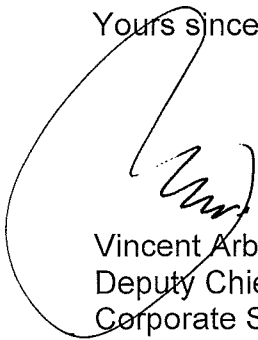
In accordance with the OIA, we have considered whether to affix a charge or extend the time limit for responding. However, given the scale of the request we do not consider that this would be an appropriate use of our publicly funded resources. Therefore, this part of your request is declined under section 18(f) of the OIA, as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The information is also declined in accordance with:

- section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any department or organisation in the course of their duty.
- section 9(2)(a) of the OIA, to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Department. Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Vincent Arbuckle  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Corporate Services