



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

11 JAN 2017

Mr Anthony Jordan
fyi-request-5030-fd3cb850@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan,

On 29 November 2016, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *MSD Costs paid to Dr J Collier from January 1996 to date in per year amounts.*
- *Cases forwarded to Dr J Collier by MSD from January 1996 to date.*

The costs paid to Doctor Collier are appropriate and consistent with the standard fees paid to medical practitioners. However your request for these costs is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of Dr Collier outweighs any public interest in this information.

On 4 September 2014, the Ministry wrote to you to advise that it does not contract directly with medical practitioners. A copy of this letter is enclosed. I trust this answers your question relating to cases forwarded to Dr Collier.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound

**Deputy Chief Executive
Service Delivery**



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

30 SEP 2014

Mr Anthony Jordan
fyi-request-1987-47b51d47@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Jordan

Thank you for your email of 4 September 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding Dr John Lewis Collier:

- *Copies of contracts since 2000.*
- *A description of work carried out by Dr Collier.*

The Ministry of Social Development does not contract directly with medical practitioners. As such, your request for contracts between Dr Collier and the Ministry is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist. Many people receive services from medical practitioners for which the cost is met directly or indirectly by the Ministry. People are referred to respected medical practitioners or are able to select a practitioner of their choice from approved lists, boards and organisations.

I can confirm that Dr Collier is an approved designated doctor with the Ministry and has provided assessments for beneficiaries. Work and Income uses a list of approved designated doctors to obtain independent medical opinions. The provision of a second opinion assists Work and Income to determine a person's capacity for work and entitlement to financial assistance. More information regarding designated doctors is available on the Work and Income website at:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/community/health-and-disability-practitioners/designated-doctors.html

Dr Collier has also provided doctor's reports for overseas pension eligibility. Senior Services – International (SSI) assists overseas agencies responsible for determining eligibility to a Disability or Invalid pension by collecting information about an applicant's medical conditions. To this end, SSI arranges for applicants to attend assessments, and then supplies this information to the relevant overseas agency.

I am unable to tell you the number of times that Dr Collier has been used as a designated doctor or provided reports for overseas pension eligibility, as this information is not held centrally.

I hope you find this information regarding Dr Collier helpful. 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DP', written over a large, sweeping horizontal line that extends across the width of the signature area.

Debbie Power
Deputy Chief Executive, Work and Income