



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 4 MAY 2017

Ms Katherine Raue

[fyi-request-5684-c3798804@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5684-c3798804@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Raue

On 5 April 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A copy of the recent "memo" from the Chief Executive's agent Mr Van Ooyen to the Social Security Appeals Authority in which Mr Van Ooyen states that the Ministry routinely provides fake names or pseudonyms instead of the actual names of members of the BRC. I would expect all details regarding the identity of the client to be redacted, but I request all other information contained in the memo.*
- *A copy of the Minutes issued by the SSAA on 8 and 9 March 2017 regarding that memo.*
- *How many times has the Ministry used fake names?*
- *What action was taken in response to the fact that this matter was brought to the attention of the Ministry in 2015?*
- *All communication between Ministry staff regarding the matter of the Minutes issued by the SSAA.*
- *All information regarding the practise or policy of using fake names for BRC members, including all information regarding discussions and decisions about the practise.*

This letter is to advise you that the Ministry has received your request, however requires more time to respond to this request. In accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Official Information Act, the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 24 May 2017.

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. 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 by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz)

I will respond to you sooner if I am able to.

Yours sincerely

Elisabeth Brunt

**General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services**