

Our Ref: 3

23 June 2015

Mr

Auckland 1

Dear Mr

Official Information Act 1975 investigation
Ministry of Social Development
Request for information: Dr David Bratt's presentations

Thank you for your letter of 13 June 2015, in response to my provisional opinion concerning your complaint about the decision of the Ministry of Social Development to refuse to refuse part of your request for information about Dr Bratt's presentations.

I have now had an opportunity to consider your comments on my provisional opinion. However, having considered all the issues raised, I remain of the view that the Ministry was entitled to refuse part of your request, on the basis that some of the information is not held, and the remaining information would involve substantial collation and research.

I note that Archives New Zealand has looked into your concerns about the issue of Dr Bratt's record keeping and is unable to provide any further assistance. In any event, my investigation is limited to the information actually held by the Ministry at the time of your request. Without access to the information in question, it is not possible to assess the content of those communications.

Overall, it seems that your concerns stem from your disagreement with Dr Bratt's and the Ministry's policies in relation to sickness beneficiaries, and the basis for that policy. It is open to you to raise your concerns about those policies with the Chief Executive of the Ministry, and/or your local Member of Parliament. The Ombudsmen have no authority to investigate matters of government policy.

I have now concluded my investigation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ron Paterson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Professor Ron Paterson
Ombudsman