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The Ministry of Social Development  
Bowen State Building  
Bowen Street or  
P.O. Box 1556  
Wellington 6011

08 July 2015

**Attention: Mr Brendan Boyle - The Chief Executive**

**Re: Requests under sections 12 and 16 of the Official Information Act 1982 - for specified information to be made available**

**Dear Mr Brendan Boyle, dear staff at the Ministry for Social Development**

Please accept my request for the disclosure of the following specified information - under sections 12 and 16 of the Official Information Act 1982.

1. Copies of reports, presented by Professor Mansel Aylward from the 'Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research' at Cardiff University in Wales, U.K., and received by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD or the Ministry), which advise the Ministry on questions or matters relating to health, disability and work capability assessments. This includes reports for the purpose of considering, preparing and formulating proposals for "welfare reform" measures, and reports for considering, preparing and/or implementing new approaches for "supporting" persons with health and/or disability into employment. This should cover reports from 01 Jan. 2010 to 30 June 2015.
2. Copies of reports presented by Dr David Beaumont (current 'President' of the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, AFOEM), in his capacity as external advisor, either as chair of the former 'Health and Disability Panel', or in another professional capacity, that were received by the Ministry, and were advising on health, disability and

work capability assessment matters. This is in relation to reports that were presented and received for the purpose of considering, preparing and formulating proposals for "welfare reform" measures, and reports for considering, preparing and/or implementing new approaches for "supporting" persons with health and/or disability into employment. This should include reports from 01 January 2010 until 30 June 2015.

3. Copies of reports, or written correspondence, which the Ministry's Principal Health Advisor, Dr David Bratt, received from Professor Mansel Aylward, or other research members based at the 'Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research' at Cardiff University in Wales, U.K., that inform and advise him and the Ministry on research on health, disability and work capability assessment matters. This is in relation to reports that were received for the purpose of considering, formulating and preparing "welfare reform" measures and new policy, and reports for considering, preparing and/or implementing new approaches for "supporting" persons with health and/or disability into employment. Reports received during the time from 01 January 2010 until 30 June 2015 would be appreciated.
4. Copies of reports and correspondence that Dr David Bratt sent to the 'Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research' at Cardiff University, Wales, U.K., for the purpose of requesting or providing information - or advice - on matters relating to health, disability and work capability assessment. This may be for the purpose of "welfare reform" related policy, and/or for the purpose of implementing new measures to "support" persons with health conditions and/or disability into employment. This is also for the period from 01 January 2010 to 30 June 2015.
5. Information that MSD received and has recorded on any declared conflict of interests by Dr David Beaumont, former chair of the Ministry appointed 'Health and Disability Panel' set up in 2011/12 to consult and advise MSD on "welfare reform", when being chosen and appointed for that role, and when acting as a member of that Panel. Dr Beaumont is now 'President' of the AFOEM, and was then 'President Elect' of the same organisation.
6. Information that MSD received and has recorded on any declared conflict of interest by Helen Lockett, Strategic Policy Advisor for the Wise Group (including Workwise), when being chosen, appointed and while being a member of the 'Health and Disability Panel' set up by the Ministry in 2011/12 to consult and advise the Ministry and government on "welfare reform".
7. Information that MSD received and has recorded on any declared conflict of interest by any other member of the 'Health and Disability Panel', when being chosen, appointed and while being a member of that Panel, set up to consult and advise the Ministry on "welfare reform".
8. Information on any conflict of interest declaration that the Ministry has received and holds on Principal Health Advisor Dr David Bratt and on Principal Disability Advisor Anne Hawker,

since prior to their selection and consideration for appointment into their corresponding positions in 2007. This is particularly in relation to potential conflicts of interest that could have arisen or that may arise due to certain other former or present professional involvements, engagements and/or business activities.

9. Information on the engagements and meetings the Ministry's Principal Health Advisor Dr Bratt had with any professionals from the 'Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research' at Cardiff University, Cardiff, Wales, U.K., during his visit to the U.K. around May 2014, and what the purposes of attended meetings or consultations were, and what reports were generated as a result of these. Also sought is information on Dr Bratt's remaining visits to Wales and to England, which appears to have followed or preceded his visit to Cardiff. Information on what other engagements and meetings he attended there is requested, and re what reports were prepared on them. This request includes copies of such reports to be provided (if available), including such on costs and possibly received subsidies the Ministry had to account for Dr Bratt's visits to the U.K..
10. Information on the engagements and meetings the Ministry's Principal Health Advisor Dr Bratt had in his professional capacity as Senior Advisor for the Ministry, during his participation in the 'General Practice NZ, 2014 Integrated Care Masterclass' visit to Europe from 30 March to 09 April 2014, what organisations, meetings and locations he visited, and what the Ministry's total costs and expenses were for this part of his European visit. If the Ministry or Dr Bratt received any sponsorship funding, information on this would be appreciated. Also are copies of reports for this visit part of this request.
11. Information on expenses paid by the Ministry for examination fees to 'Designated Doctors' commissioned with conducting examinations of clients referred by Work and Income for second opinions or other reasons, being for each year, from 01 July 2012 up to 30 June 2015 (or for the periods falling within that time frame, for which figures are available).
12. Information on expenses paid for fees charged for "host doctor assessment" reports by 'Host Doctors' in the process of 'Designated Doctors' conducting examinations of clients referred from Work and Income for second opinions or other reasons, being for each year, from 01 July 2012 to 30 June 2015 (or for the periods falling within that time frame, for which figures are available).
13. Information on expenses paid for costs of holding Medical Appeal Board hearings, commissioned with hearing appeals by Work and Income clients who disagree with decisions made by Ministry staff or management, if available, separately for appeals based on health or disability grounds to be considered for benefit entitlement, and otherwise based on work capability assessment grounds for being able to meet work or training obligations while on a benefit. If no separate figures for

those types of appeals exist, a total will suffice. The information is sought per year, for the period from 01 July 2012 to 30 June 2015 (as far as available).

14. Information on the number of Medical Appeal Board hearings conducted, if possible broken down into the type of appeal filed and heard, otherwise in total, for the period from 01 July 2012 to 30 June 2015 (as far as information is available).
15. Information on the number of internal reviews of decisions for which clients sought a "review of decision", conducted prior to proceeding with an appeal on medical grounds, or on disability or work capability, to a Medical Appeals Board hearing. If possible broken down outcome numbers are sought for such conducted "reviews", for the period from 01 July 2012 to 30 June 2015. Otherwise the total per year would suffice.
16. Information on the set fee structure - or amounts paid - for "designated doctors fees" and "host doctor fees", and changes made by the Ministry over that time (and when), for the periods from 01 January 2005 to 08 July 2015.
17. Information on the duration or time periods, on the numbers of participants, the number of contracted providers and the outcome results of any trials conducted, to test the feasibility, effectiveness and performance of so-called "social impact bond" funded projects, as has recently been discussed as a new funding measure for social outcomes the Ministry seeks. Information is sought on such trials that may have been conducted with persons on social security benefits suffering mental health conditions, or any other health conditions or disability. Outcome results in successful referrals into lasting employment of participants, either in numbers or percentages of total participants would be appreciated, same as for those not possible to refer and place into such employment. As these may be trials conducted by the Ministry of Health with MSD cooperating, I seek information on who has run such trials.
18. Information is requested on how many Work and Income clients suffering mental health conditions (and being on the 'Jobseeker Support - Deferred' type of benefit) have since the commencement of contracted "Mental Health Employment Services" (MHES) until now been approached to participate in such services, how many have agreed to participate, how many have been referred to providers delivering such services, **how many have successfully been placed into employment** up until now, and how many have had to terminate participation due to what range of reasons. This request is to obtain an update of some figures already received on 24 April 2014 and on 26 February 2015.
19. Information is sought on how many Work and Income clients being on the Sole Parent Support benefit have since the commencement of contracted "Sole Parent Employment Services" (SPES) until now been approached to participate in such a service, how many have agreed to participate, how many have objected to participate, how many have been referred to providers

delivering such services, **how many have successfully been placed into employment** up until now, and how many have terminated participation due to what types of reasons. This request is to obtain a further update on some limited figures already received 26 February 2015.

20. Information is requested on how many Work and Income clients suffering from any health and/or disability conditions, and being in social security benefit receipt for those reasons, have since the commencement of contracted "Work Ability Assessments" (WAAs) (24 Feb. 2014) until now been approached to participate in such assessments, how many have agreed to participate, how many have objected to undergo such an assessment, how many have failed to attend such assessments, and how many were in the end referred to be assessed by contracted providers delivering such services This request is to obtain figures that were so far not delivered, also not as part of an earlier request answered by MSD on 24 April 2014.
21. Information on how many Work and Income clients suffering from any health and/or disability conditions, and being on, or applying for a social security benefit granted on health and disability reasons, have since the commencement of contracted "Specialist Assessments" until now been approached to participate in such assessments, how many have agreed to participate, how many have objected to undergo such an assessment, how many have failed to attend such assessments, and how many were in the end referred to be assessed by a contracted provider delivering such services. This request is to obtain figures that were so far not delivered, also not as part of an earlier request answered by MSD on 24 April 2014

The above requested specified information is sought to be made available under the Official Information Act 1982 within the specified time frame of 20 working days. I appreciate though that due to the complexity of some of the information asked for, the Ministry may see a need to extend the time to response. If that is the case, I will expect written notification of this.

I kindly and respectfully ask that the information is made available by way of a sufficiently detailed written response, and by way of good quality, easily readable photo copies of original documents containing the relevant information. Otherwise it can also in part be made available by way of equally good quality computer generated printouts. If not available in hard copy form, a standard CD containing the corresponding, relevant documents and information in PDF, or similarly common, readable data format can be accepted.

Thank you for your acknowledgment and appreciated co-operation.

Yours sincerely

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