

25 August 2015

Auckland 1

Dear M

Response to your request for official information (ref H2015)

Your request for official information received at the Ministry of Social Development on 08 July 2015, has subsequently been transferred to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry), under section 14(b) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), on 28 July 2015. You requested:

- *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.*

Following a comprehensive and open procurement process, four potential social bond areas have been selected for future assessment and development. The mental health and employment social bond you refer to is one of the four under consideration.

The pilot for that social bond is still in the procurement phase of development; the Ministry has not run any trials and as such does not have any information to share with you. Accordingly the Ministry is required to refuse your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist. However, details of the pilot can be found on the Ministry's website (www.health.govt.nz) by searching 'social bonds' and we continue to update this as the process develops.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Teresa Wall
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Policy Business Unit