



10 November 2016

██████████
Senior Researcher
Office of the Leader of the Opposition
Via e-mail: ██████████

Dear ██████████

Official Information Act request dated 11 October 2016

I am writing in response to your Official Information Act request that was transferred to Superu from the Ministry of Social Development on 11 October 2016 requesting:

1. *What work has been commissioned by the Minister on tracking off benefit outcomes as mentioned by her on The Nation 9 July 2016.
See <http://www.voxy.co.nz/politics/5/257068>*
2. *Who has been commissioned?*
3. *How much is the contract?*
4. *What are the terms of reference/scope for this work?*
5. *How many people will this work capture? Who is the group that is being tracked?*
6. *For what time period is this for?*

The off-benefit outcomes research that you refer to in your request is still under active consideration by the Minister for Social Development. I am therefore withholding some of the information in relation to your questions under sections 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act. In making decisions to withhold official information, I have considered whether the withholding of that information is outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available. On balance, there does not appear to be any overriding public interest reasons that support the release of the information withheld.

Answers to your questions are as follows:

1. Research to examine where people go when they move off a benefit (referred to as 'off-benefit transitions'). For example, how many move into employment or leave the country.
2. Superu contracted Taylor Fry Analytics Ltd to carry out the research.
3. Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.



4. The project sought to answer the following research questions:

- What types of off-benefit transitions occur e.g. benefit-to-work transition, benefit-to-study transition etc?
- What are the characteristics of the individuals associated with the different types of transitions?
- Have transition patterns changed over time?

Superu requested the supplier to use analytical methods appropriate for examining longitudinal linked administration data in the Statistics New Zealand Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). We asked suppliers to update and extend the work done previously by Dixon and Crichton in 2006 that looked at benefit-to-work transitions between 2001 and 2002. This earlier work followed about 110,000 people who transitioned off benefit into employment from 1 April 2001 to 31 March 2002. It included people who been on a benefit for three months or more and followed them for two years after they moved off benefit. You can find this earlier research at the following link

http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/employment_and_unemployment/successful-benefit-to-work-transitions.aspx.

Superu asked the supplier to update and extend this earlier work by making use of additional years of data in the IDI to examine how transitions patterns have changed over time. Since the earlier study, improvements to the IDI mean more information about off-benefit transitions is now available, such as the type of benefit people were on when they left and more information about peoples' lives beyond the world of work (e.g. education and training).

5. Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

6. Withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act.

At this stage it is anticipated that this research will be published later this year, at which time it will be publically available.

I hope you find this information 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

Clare Ward
Chief Executive