



14 February 2022

Brendon Mills

fyi-request-18084-c2958bb0@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Brendon Mills

On 3 January 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Studies have been done into the rate of poverty/hardship among those affected when the age of eligibility for NZ Superannuation was raised from 60 to 65 from 1992 to 2001.*

The Ministry has performed a digital search and could not locate any studies which are specific to the topic you have requested. Some information embedded within policy advice, reports, or other documents may exist, however, due to the large time period of your request, substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope of your request. The Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this search. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources.

As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

A small amount of information regarding the rate of poverty for the period you have requested can be found in the following academic paper hosted on the Ministry website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/journals-and-magazines/social-policy-journal/spj20/assessing-the-progress-on-poverty-reduction-20-pages197-222.html. Rate of poverty information was derived from the Household Economic Survey which is collated and published by Stats NZ here: www.stats.govt.nz/az-of-information-releases.

For historical or archived HES information, please contact Stats NZ.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry J Fenton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Harry Fenton
Policy Manager
Seniors