



Nic Lane

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28 April 2022

Tēnā koe Nic Lane

On 1 April 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I'd like to know how the current alternative formats: audio, braille, easy read, large print, and New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) were decided upon and signed off (www.digital.govt.nz/standards-and-guidance). Please include meeting minutes and timelines around these and any other formats or languages that were considered but didn't make it over the line.*
- *Are there currently other mechanisms to request government content / communications be translated to Te Reo Māori that I'm simply unaware of? That might ensure Māori have equal access to information.*

On 14 April 2022, the Ministry contacted you to inform you that part of your request had been transferred to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori for response. The part of the information to which your request relates, namely mechanisms for requesting translations in Te Reo Māori, is believed to be more closely connected with the functions of Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori.

The Accessibility Charter was co-designed with disabled people's organisations and co-led by the Association of Blind Citizens. Its stated purpose is to work progressively towards ensuring that all information intended for the public is accessible to everyone, and people can access it in a way that meets their individual needs and promotes their independence and dignity. The Accessibility Charter identifies the need for alternative means of communication that meet the communication needs of disabled people as the following:

- Easy Read
- New Zealand Sign Language
- Braille
- Audio
- Large print

These formats, unlike other languages, meet disability-related needs and allow for communication by and with disabled people. No separate decisions were made about their selection as part of this process as these were the alternate formats already in use by the disabled community. As such, I must refuse your request for meeting minutes and timelines under Section 18 (e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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 regarding alternative accessibility formats, 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Dwina Dickinson
Group General Manager
System Performance and Improvement