

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry



Robert Newcombe

By email: fyi-request-7632-57308f30@requests.fyi.org.nz

16 November 2020

Dear Robert

RESPONSE TO OVERDUE FYI.ORG.NZ REQUEST

I have today become aware that a request that you submitted through the FYI.org.nz website in 2018 was not properly allocated by my office at the time, and that you did not receive a response to your request. I apologise for this administrative error.

At the time you submitted your request to me I was the Minister of Justice. I no longer hold that role, so am unable to respond in that capacity now.

However the crux of your request was a request for legal advice (*"Is the treatment of overseas contributory pensions illegal?"*). Ministers are part of the Executive and are unable to give legal advice. I would encourage you to consult a lawyer when you are seeking legal advice. You can find a lawyer at www.lawsociety.org.nz/for-the-public/get-legal-help/.

Notwithstanding the above, the issues you have raised more closely align with the responsibilities for the Minister for Social Development. Had your request been processed in 2018 then I likely would have transferred your request to that Minister subject to s14(b)(ii) of the Official Information Act 1982 (the information is believed to be *"more closely connected with the functions of another department... or Minister"*). Given the length of time that has passed I have not transferred your request, however if you are still seeking information about this topic then you may wish to make a new request to the current Minister of Social Development, Hon Carmel Sepuloni MP, at c.sepuloni@ministers.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



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