Thank you for your email of 29 January 2018 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- As of 1 January 2018, how many social workers were employed by the ministry? I require the number of social workers - not full time equivalents.
- Of those social workers, what percentage have a level 7 degree qualification, equivalent or higher?

We define 'social worker' as roles in the Field Social Worker Line (FSWL). The FSWL includes Social Workers, Senior Practitioners and Supervisors. As at 31 December 2017, Oranga Tamariki had 1,434 social workers.

I am refusing the part of your request for information about the percentage of social workers who have a level 7 qualification under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, as this information is not held by us and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

Oranga Tamariki requires all candidates applying for a social work position to have either:

- a Social Work Qualification that is recognised by the New Zealand Social Work Registration Board (SWRB); or

- full registration with the SWRB and a current Annual Practicing Certificate (APC).

Further information about the qualifications recognised by the SWRB can be found on the SWRB website: [http://swrb.govt.nz/](http://swrb.govt.nz/).
Of the 1,434 social workers, 1,092 (76%) of these are registered or actively working towards registration.

There are a further 335 staff registered with the Social Workers Registration Board in management and practice support/advisory roles.

Oranga Tamariki supports all social workers to be registered and pays the fees associated with registration. We aspire to full registration of social workers.

We intend to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we 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@mvcot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

[Signature]

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services