Dear [Name]

Thank you for your email of 10 October 2018, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki). You have requested the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- **Under the Official information act I would like to know if you are aware of any times wherein fake names have been used in information you put before the Family Court.**

- **As you now former counterpart the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has been caught doing this did OT or Child, Youth and Family (CYF) allow if not encourage this practice to happen rather than disapprove and stopping it from happening.**

- **Given the MSD used fake names it could suggest to me given they used to run CYF now called OT you might have as well is my reason for asking...**

- **Or are you aware of the MSD having used fake names in documents that went before the Family Court for any reason on their or your (CYF/OT) behalf in any way...**

- **I have put some links near the end of the email to show what the MSD did and I am asking if CYF/OT also undertook such a practice like that as well.**

Oranga Tamariki was established on 1 April 2017 as a new government department with its own structure, funding and operating models.

Our staff work with families and whānau in the community and we focus first and foremost on the needs of the child or young person. Social work practice is based on trust and our social workers, work together with families and whānau to provide them with the help and support that they might need to provide a safe, stable and loving home.
We are committed to being open and transparent and when our social workers give information to the Family Court, they provide their name and place of work to the Court.

If we became aware of safety concerns relating to a member of staff and felt that it was necessary to make an application to the Family Court to withhold the identity of a staff member, and use a pseudonym, we would ask the Family Court for permission to do this.

To confirm with absolute certainty that no staff member of Oranga Tamariki or its predecessors has ever used a pseudonym in Family Court we would need to manually review all files where information has been given to the Family Court. This would entail substantial collation, however it is our expectation that this has not occurred.

Oranga Tamariki intends 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 could 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@ot.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.govt.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services