Thank you for your email of 4 November 2018 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- We would really appreciate your help with the Institute’s StrategyNZ project to strengthen GDSs by making them more effective, transparent, measurable, comparable and durable. We have been strongly advocating for a current list of GDSs to be made available on each government department’s website and in their annual report. Because this is uncommon, it is my view that we need to request this information through an OIA.

- Having published the Government Department Strategies (GDS) Index in 2014 and 2015, the Institute has now begun work towards completing the 2018 GDS Index. To complete this exercise, we need to confirm and review (against a scorecard) all the GDSs in operation as at 30 June 2018. A definition of a ‘GDS’ can be found further below, and is also contained on the GDS Index methodology page, found here.

- On the GDS Index website home page you will find a table that contains a tentative list of GDSs in operation as at 30 June 2018. This table is searchable by department.

- This table has been generated by the McGuinness Institute. We are writing to ask if this table is complete? If not, there may be GDSs that were no longer operational as at 30 June 2018 or GDSs that we have missed in our scoping exercise. If this is the case we would appreciate the name of GDSs on our table that are no longer operational as at 30 June 2018 (which we will archive) or the name and link to pdfs that are missing (which we will add to the table).

PS: A government department strategy (‘GDS’) is defined as follows:
A 'government department strategy' must:

- be a publicly available statement or report;
- be generated by government departments with a national rather than a local focus;
- contain long-term thinking, in such a way that the strategy links to a long-term vision or aim, and ideally provide clarity over the factors that may impinge on the attainment of that vision or aim; and
- guide the department's thinking and operations over the long term (i.e. contain a work programme to achieve change over two years or more).

You may be aware that Oranga Tamariki was formed as a new Government department on 1 April 2017. Our first 15 months was focussed on creating the essential foundations for the organisation, stabilising services, delivering some immediate service enhancements and building essential capacity and capability. Over the next year we plan to build on this momentum to deliver further improvements in each of our three priority areas: loving places; quality practice; and stronger partnerships. We will also prepare to implement our new operating model in line with legislative changes from 1 July 2019.

You may like to read Our Focus, a document that outlines our vision, goals and priorities and how we plan to keep moving forward to ensure the wellbeing of our children, young people, and their families. You can read Our Focus on our website at the following address:


Oranga Tamariki has not yet developed or published any Government department strategies as defined in your request. For this reason, your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Our new operating model is currently being worked on, which will include our work programme and strategies. We would be happy to provide you with this documentation once it is complete.

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 QIA_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.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services