



29 October 2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 2 October 2024, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information regarding contracted services. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Oranga Tamariki funds service providers to ensure that various organisations can deliver essential services to support vulnerable children and families. By funding these contracts Oranga Tamariki can provide a range of services such as social work support, counselling, transition support for rangatahi, and other programmes to help improve the well-being of children and young people across New Zealand.

We have been in contact with service providers since March 2024, keeping them informed of the contracting process. We are actively reaching out to all service providers to provide clarity on their future contracts with Oranga Tamariki. Service providers have been encouraged to reach out directly if they have any concerns.

You have requested:

Under the Official Information Act, could I please request:

- *Evidence, modelling, and advice used, produced, and received to predict or determine possible impacts – whether positive, negative, or neutral – of contracted service changes on children, young people, and families*
- *The directives, modelling, and advice given to/used by those working on the June 30, 2024 and related round of contract reviews to inform their decisions about contracted service changes*
- *Evidence, modelling, and advice being used to identify the needs of at risk and in-care children and young people*

Oranga Tamariki cannot provide the specific information requested, as contracts remain under negotiation with service providers and work is still underway to finalise decisions.

IN-CONFIDENCE

As such your request is refused in full under section 9(2)(i) of the Act to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

The rationale for our decision making must always be what is best for children and young people in care. They sit at the centre of all our decision making and always come first. Oranga Tamariki cannot fund everything and as the needs of children change, so must the services we fund. Over time we have invested in a wide range of services to support all children, young people and their families. In doing so we have not invested enough in children who need our help the most – those who come to our notice or who are in our care. It is their needs that must always come first, and it is their needs that remain our key priority

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Darrin Haimona
Deputy Chief Executive
Enabling Communities and Investment