



29 July 2026

Ref: OIA-2026/27-0021

Tēnā koe [REDACTED],

Official Information Act request relating to child poverty modelling

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, which was received by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on 7 July 2026. You requested:

"[...] all information held by DPMC relating to the statutory review of the child poverty targets undertaken during 2023 and 2024.

In particular, I request:

- 1. All documents explaining or supporting the conclusion that achieving the existing statutory child poverty targets would require investment "in the region of \$3 billion per year."*
- 2. All modelling, analysis, spreadsheets, calculations and assumptions used to derive that estimate.*
- 3. All advice received from the Treasury, MSD or other agencies regarding the feasibility and cost of meeting the statutory targets.*
- 4. All inter-agency correspondence discussing:*
 - a. whether the targets remained achievable;*
 - b. alternative target options;*
 - c. policy packages that could achieve the targets; and*
 - d. the costs of achieving them.*
- 5. Any Cabinet papers, Cabinet minutes, briefings, presentations and aide memoirs prepared for Ministers concerning the review of the statutory child poverty targets.*
- 6. Any advice comparing different policy packages and their expected impact on the statutory child poverty measures.*
- 7. Any documents discussing the reasons why the Government decided to amend the intermediate targets rather than recommend additional policy investment.*
- 8. Any peer review or quality assurance undertaken on the modelling or estimates.*

Where documents contain modelling prepared by another agency, I request that these be released if held by DPMC or otherwise

If the DPMC believes another agency holds part of the material, please transfer that part of the request under section 14 of the Official Information Act, rather than refusing it."

On 15 July 2026, we notified you of our decision to transfer parts of your request to the Treasury and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) under section 14(b) of the Act, as they either held the information requested or were better placed to consider information more closely connected to their functions. The present response covers any relevant information held by DPMC, that is not covered by the transfers to the Treasury and MSD, for the period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024.

Search limitations

As advised when transferring parts of your request, responsibility for the Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group transferred from DPMC to MSD in April 2024. As DPMC no longer has subject matter responsibility for this work, our response to your request has relied on searches of our information management systems to identify information within scope of your request.

Information to be withheld

Identified as relevant to your request are some briefings provided by the DPMC Policy Advisory Group to the Prime Minister. These briefings are provided to the Prime Minister in confidence to support him in his role as leader of the Government and chair of Cabinet. These briefings are withheld in their entirety under the following sections of the Official Information Act 1982:

- 9(2)(f)(ii), to maintain collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act. No public interest has been identified that would be sufficient to outweigh the reasons for withholding that information.

Information publicly available

With the exception of the advice to the Prime Minister withheld above, and two DPMC briefings to other Ministers that are being considered by MSD and will be addressed in its response to the parts of your request transferred to that agency, all of DPMC's advice to Ministers on the topics raised by your request is publicly available on either DPMC's or MSD's websites:

Date	Document description	Website address
11/04/2024	Review of the ten-year child poverty reduction targets and options for setting the third intermediate targets	https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/child-poverty-reduction-targets-papers/dpmc-2023-24-976-briefing-issues-and-options-for-setting-the-ten-year-and-third-intermediate-child-poverty-targets.pdf
11/04/2024	Statutory review of the current 10-year child poverty reduction targets	https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/child-poverty-reduction-targets-papers/dpmc-2023-24-1058-briefing-statutory-review-of-the-current-ten-year-child-poverty-reduction-targets.pdf
April 2024	Final 2022/23 Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and Child Poverty Related Indicators Annual Report	https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/child-youth-wellbeing/reports/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy-cpri-annual-report-july-2022-to-june-2023.pdf
13/03/2024	Review of the second intermediate child poverty reduction targets	DPMC-2023/24-920, Briefing - Review of the second intermediate child poverty reduction targets (PDF 25.1MB)

Date	Document description	Website address
21/12/2023	Policies to help achieve the Government's Child Poverty Reduction Targets	Page 142 onwards: https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-05/dpmc-roia-oia-2023-24-0607.pdf
27/11/2023	Briefing to the Incoming Minister - Child Poverty Reduction	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2024-02/bim-2023-child-poverty-reduction.pdf
07/06/2023	Finalising the Child Poverty Related Indicators report	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-08/briefing-22-23-1638-finalising-child-poverty-indicators-report.pdf
22/05/2023	Achieving the Government's Child Poverty Reduction Targets	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/memorandum-achieving-governments-child-poverty-reduction-targets
04/05/2023	Draft Child Poverty Related Indicators report and finalising changes to the Housing Affordability indicator	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/briefing-dpmc-202223-1464-draft-child-poverty-related-indicators-report-and-finalising-changes-housing-affordability-indicator
22/03/2023	2021/22 Child Poverty Rates	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/aide-memoire-dpmc-202223-1085-202122-child-poverty-rates
09/03/2023	Making progress towards the child poverty reduction targets	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/aide-memoire-dpmc-202223-1015-making-progress-towards-child-poverty-reduction-targets
17/02/2023	Working for Families: Supplementary Briefing to the Incoming Minister for Child Poverty Reduction	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/aide-memoire-dpmc-202223-856-briefing-incoming-minister-child-poverty-reduction-supplementary-briefings
17/02/2023	Aide-Mémoire: Briefing to the Incoming Minister for Child Poverty Reduction on the Child Poverty Reduction Act	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2023-11/aide-memoire-2022-23-885-supp-briefings-cpr.pdf
16/02/2023	Debt to Government: supplementary briefing to the incoming Minister for Child Poverty Reduction	https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/publications/aide-memoire-dpmc-202223-912-briefing-incoming-minister-child-poverty-reduction-supplementary-briefings

Accordingly, insofar as these documents may contain information relevant to your request, they are refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information requested is publicly available.

For completeness, please note that DPMC has not undertaken a detailed assessment of each published document against the precise terms of your request. Instead, the documents have been identified as the principal publicly available sources of advice on the matters raised in your request.

Where information has been withheld from any of these publications at the time of their release, decisions relating to any such withheld material are more appropriately addressed by MSD. I therefore refer you to MSD's forthcoming response, as that agency is best placed to consider whether, in light of the passage of time and the circumstances that now prevail, any additional information can be released.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the DPMC website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Nāku noa, nā



Janine Smith
Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Delivery Unit

Proactively Released