

Our Ref: 36  
Contact: K

**Ombudsman**

Fairness for all

30 October 2013

Mr

Auckland 1

Dear Mr

**Official Information Act complaint**

**Ministry of Social Development**

**Refusal of information relating to assessing entitlement for a medical related benefit**

I am writing on behalf of Ombudsman Ron Paterson. Thank you for your emails of 9 August, 6 & 13 September, and 17 October 2013.

You have made a complaint about the decision of the Ministry of Social Development on your request for official information about the figures for referrals to designated doctors, the statistics relating to medical appeal board hearings and salary information for senior health advisors to the Ministry.

Professor Paterson will be investigating your complaint.

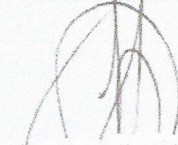
As a first step in the investigation process, I have written to the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development to notify him of your complaint. I have asked him to provide Professor Paterson with the relevant information at issue together with a report on the decision on your request.

You will be kept advised as to the progress of the investigation.

K is assisting with your complaint. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact K on DDI: 462 , email: [@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto: @ombudsman.parliament.nz).

I enclose, as an appendix to this letter, brief details of an Ombudsman's role under the Official Information Act and the investigation process, for your information.

Yours sincerely



Manager

Encl: Appendix