

Our Ref: 35 4

5 March 2015

Mr

Street

Auckland 1

Dear Mr

**Official Information Act investigation**  
**Ministry of Social Development**  
**Deemed refusal of request for official information**

I refer to my letter of 16 January 2015, concerning your complaint about a delay by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) in responding to your request for official information.

I understand that a response to your request was sent to you on 26 February 2015.

I am now able to advise you of the outcome of my investigation of your delay complaint.

The Official Information Act (OIA) requires that a decision be made and communicated on an official information request no later than 20 working days after the day on which the request was received (unless an extension of this time limit is made).

I am informed your request was received by the Ministry on 1 October 2014. By my calculation, a decision should have been made and communicated to you by 30 October 2014 at the latest. However, I understand that no decision was made on your request by that date.

As a result, I have formed the final opinion that there has been a failure to meet the requirements imposed by the OIA.

The Ministry has written to me acknowledging the failure to meet the obligations under the OIA in this.

I am satisfied the Ministry is aware of its obligations under the OIA. I consider it unnecessary to take any further steps in relation to your complaint, and I have concluded my investigation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ron Paterson', written in dark ink.

Professor Ron Paterson  
Ombudsman