



Inland Revenue
Te Tari Taake

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Privacy (Information Sharing Agreement between Inland Revenue and Ministry of Social Development) Amendment Order 2026

SL 2026/271

Issued: 8 October 2026

This commentary explains changes to the approved information sharing agreement between Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Social Development. The changes allow the Ministry of Social Development to use specified income information without first waiting 10 working days, so it can make some benefit, housing and related assistance decisions sooner.

FIRST PUBLISHED

October 2026 by Policy, Inland Revenue, PO Box 2198, Wellington 6140.

Privacy (Information Sharing Agreement between Inland Revenue and Ministry of Social Development) Amendment Order 2026 – Order in Council commentary



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Order

Sections 145 and 149 of the Privacy Act 2020

The Privacy (Information Sharing Agreement between Inland Revenue and Ministry of Social Development) Amendment Order 2026 (the Order) amends the approved information sharing agreement between Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). The Order changes how quickly MSD may use pay as you earn (PAYE) and child support income information supplied by Inland Revenue to make decisions that may adversely affect a person.

Background

MSD uses income information from Inland Revenue to assess entitlement to income-tested financial assistance and the amount payable each week. Before it was amended, MSD generally had to give a person 10 working days to challenge the accuracy of shared income information before using it to make an adverse decision. That delay could contribute to benefit overpayments and debt and could also delay a reduction in income-related rent if a person's child support income had fallen.

Key changes

The Order removes the notice period of 10 working days before MSD may:

- use PAYE income information from Inland Revenue when assessing eligibility and charging income against benefits
- use child support income information when determining eligibility and entitlement to income-related rent, assessing eligibility for public housing, and determining priority on the Housing Register, and
- from 3 July 2028, use PAYE income information when determining eligibility and entitlement to income-related rent, assessing eligibility for public housing, and determining priority on the Housing Register.

The amendment is limited to these specified forms of assistance. This reflects feedback from public consultation and the Privacy Commissioner. People can continue to challenge the accuracy of information and decisions through MSD's existing review and dispute processes.

Effective date

The Order comes into force on 8 October 2026. However, as above, the change allowing PAYE income information to be used for income-related rent, public housing eligibility, and priority on the Housing Register without 10 working days' notice applies from 3 July 2028.

Further information

The new Order in Council can be found at:

[Privacy \(Information Sharing Agreement between Inland Revenue and Ministry of Social Development\) Amendment Order 2026 – New Zealand Legislation](#)