



08 NOV 2017

Dear

On 25 September 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting information, under the Official Information Act 1982. On 6 October 2017, your request was refined to the following:

- I realised that by definition anyone receiving a Work Capacity certificate for 6 months or more OR receiving a Supported Living Payment by definition have a disability lasting greater than 6 months that would make them eligible for a Disability Allowance. Therefore as a general gauge of whether adequate paperwork is being completed by doctors to maximise support available I'd like to see - if it is possible - what proportion of people in the above situations actually have a disability allowance in place.*

On 24 October 2017, you were notified that the Ministry has interpreted your request to be for information that may indicate at what stage a health practitioner has completed the paperwork for clients granted Supported Living Payment (SLP) or Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability (JS-HCID) to apply for and be granted a Disability Allowance (DA).

When applying for a health related benefit, a client is required to present a medical certificate from an independent health practitioner which states the primary reason they are unable to work and will have deferred work obligations until such time as their health practitioner deems them ready for work. A client may qualify for JS-HCID or SLP depending on the severity of their health condition or disability.

At the time of application for a main benefit, a Case Manager will discuss a client's circumstances to ensure that the client is aware of all financial assistance they may be entitled to. The client can then decide if they wish to apply for any additional financial assistance.

A client may apply to receive a DA to meet any additional costs they may have due to their health condition or disability. DA is an income tested, non taxable form of financial assistance available to people who have on-going additional costs resulting from a disability which is likely to last at least six months. A client is required to complete an application form, have a Disability Certificate completed by their health practitioner and provide verification of any associated costs.

Please refer to the enclosed two tables:

- Table 1 shows the number and percentage of clients granted JS-HCID or SLP for the years ending September 2014 to 2017, broken down by the time to grant a DA in relation to the benefit grant date, of up to 60 days.
- Table 2 shows the number of clients granted JS-HCID or SLP for the years ending September 2014 to 2017, broken down by primary incapacity, and the time to grant a DA in relation to the benefit grant date, of up to 60 days.

In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:


- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response concerning the grant of DA with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound

Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Table 1: The number and percentage of clients granted JS-HCID or SLP for the years ending September 2014 to 2017, broken down by the time to grant a DA in relation to the benefit grant date, of up to 60 days.

Year ending September	Period on benefit before DA granted	Benefit type			
		SLP HC&D		JS-HCID	
		Number	Per cent	Number	Per cent
2014	No DA grant by 60 days	4,116	39%	25,851	72%
	DA granted same time	5,832	55%	6,282	17%
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	443	4%	2,831	8%
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	118	1%	982	3%
	Total	10,509	100%	35,946	100%
2015	No DA grant by 60 days	3,685	40%	25,361	72%
	DA granted same time	5,028	54%	6,186	17%
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	436	5%	2,846	8%
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	143	2%	1,024	3%
	Total	9,292	100%	35,417	100%
2016	No DA grant by 60 days	3,595	42%	25,376	73%
	DA granted same time	4,507	52%	5,732	17%
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	412	5%	2,571	7%
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	130	2%	963	3%
	Total	8,644	100%	34,642	100%
2017*	No DA grant by 60 days	3,743	42%	24,674	75%
	DA granted same time	4,637	52%	5,069	15%
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	380	4%	2,420	7%
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	110	1%	867	3%
	Total	8,870	100%	33,030	100%

Please refer to the notes for all tables following Table Two.

Table 2: The number of clients granted JS-HCID or SLP for the years ending September 2014 to 2017, broken down by primary incapacity, and the time to grant a DA in relation to the benefit grant date, of up to 60 days.

Year ending September	Period on benefit before DA granted	Primary incapacity											
		Accident		Blood and blood forming organs		Cancer		Cardio-vascular disorders		Congenital conditions			
		SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID		
2014	No DA grant by 60 days	222	3,113	51	142	392	492	355	964	84	125		
	DA granted same time	247	461	96	38	447	176	648	393	82	38		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	203	S	15	67	78	56	198	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	81	S	10	20	34	10	62	S	S		
	Total	486	3,858	156	205	926	780	1,069	1,617	174	183		
2015	No DA grant by 60 days	198	2,794	54	150	415	477	272	935	84	112		
	DA granted same time	205	421	62	36	419	137	528	410	84	44		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	221	S	18	81	61	50	173	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	75	S	12	31	25	20	52	S	S		
	Total	432	3,511	125	216	946	700	870	1,570	179	181		
2016	No DA grant by 60 days	173	2,589	48	127	437	504	270	1,016	90	147		
	DA granted same time	177	331	47	38	349	147	472	387	68	41		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	17	168	S	26	59	70	49	185	S	13		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	7	69	S	8	24	23	16	75	S	8		
	Total	374	3,157	100	199	869	744	807	1,663	169	209		
2017*	No DA grant by 60 days	156	2,446	59	123	458	452	279	1,020	104	140		
	DA granted same time	154	302	49	33	341	125	464	338	80	32		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	156	S	24	77	52	38	158	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	62	S	6	18	24	14	60	S	S		
	Total	328	2,966	115	186	894	653	795	1,576	196	189		

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September year end	Period on benefit before DA granted	Primary incapacity											
		Digestive system disorders		Entry of foreign bodies		Genito-urinary disorders		Ill defined conditions		Immune system disorders			
		SLP HC&D	JS- HCID	SLP HC&D	JS- HCID	SLP HC&D	JS- HCID	SLP HC&D	JS- HCID	SLP HC&D	JS- HCID		
2014	No DA grant by 60 days	56	692	S	83	329	76	749	7	17			
	DA granted same time	107	162	0	119	96	105	146	S	S			
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	64	0	S	38	S	57	S	S			
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	30	0	S	15	S	22	0	S			
	Total	174	948	S	215	478	196	974	20	28			
2015	No DA grant by 60 days	58	675	S	60	280	81	704	12	21			
	DA granted same time	98	162	0	112	74	105	121	9	S			
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	80	0	S	36	S	73	S	S			
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	27	0	S	14	S	22	S	S			
	Total	165	944	S	190	404	197	920	S	30			
2016	No DA grant by 60 days	49	682	S	69	333	116	955	S	16			
	DA granted same time	81	170	0	101	82	130	161	S	S			
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	9	70	0	S	37	S	87	0	S			
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	0	18	0	S	20	S	32	0	S			
	Total	139	940	S	187	472	268	1,235	9	27			
2017*	No DA grant by 60 days	51	629	S	70	317	96	787	6	22			
	DA granted same time	95	130	0	100	70	127	96	S	S			
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	70	0	11	36	S	62	S	S			
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	19	0	8	12	S	19	0	S			
	Total	154	848	S	189	435	235	964	11	31			

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September year end	Period on benefit before DA granted	Primary incapacity											
		Infectious/ parasitic diseases		Intellectual disability		Metabolic & endocrine disorders		Musculo-skeletal system disorder		Nervous system disorders			
		SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID		
2014	No DA grant by 60 days	40	391	87	46	116	689	413	2,674	282	635		
	DA granted same time	74	79	S	S	280	281	839	835	402	218		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	29	S	S	26	127	49	374	25	88		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	15	0	S	8	45	11	106	14	37		
	Total	122	514	141	63	430	1,142	1,312	3,989	723	978		
2015	No DA grant by 60 days	41	356	85	45	121	669	313	2,523	212	652		
	DA granted same time	53	83	48	S	239	311	772	804	320	243		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	31	S	S	15	110	45	360	39	100		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	14	S	S	8	42	10	119	12	37		
	Total	102	484	140	60	383	1,132	1,140	3,806	583	1,032		
2016	No DA grant by 60 days	38	344	52	37	104	754	305	2,597	228	670		
	DA granted same time	47	56	S	S	229	298	622	711	309	219		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	31	S	S	S	112	32	312	33	91		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	9	S	0	S	41	13	134	13	32		
	Total	91	440	81	45	352	1,205	972	3,754	583	1,012		
2017*	No DA grant by 60 days	38	329	90	21	87	741	305	2,305	233	637		
	DA granted same time	34	49	39	S	213	230	642	657	336	208		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	18	7	S	S	122	45	338	30	70		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	11	0	S	S	35	8	103	9	28		
	Total	78	407	136	31	318	1,128	1,000	3,403	608	943		

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September year end	Period on benefit before DA granted	Primary incapacity											
		Pregnancy related		Psychological or psychiatric conditions		Respiratory disorders		Sensory disorders		Skin disorders			
		SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID	SLP HC&D	JS-HCID		
2014	No DA grant by 60 days	S	1,739	1,304	10,382	131	455	115	258	17	174		
	DA granted same time	S	29	1,473	2,650	331	161	94	105	S	47		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	0	11	95	1,277	22	76	S	37	S	18		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	0	6	23	427	6	18	S	6	0	10		
	Total	S	1,785	2,895	14,736	490	710	230	406	53	249		
2015	No DA grant by 60 days	0	1,461	1,188	10,803	160	495	89	270	S	182		
	DA granted same time	0	24	1,270	2,693	255	173	103	73	20	46		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	0	8	74	1,309	S	75	S	38	S	20		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	0	8	23	474	S	25	S	10	0	10		
	Total	0	1,501	2,555	15,279	447	768	199	391	29	258		
2016	No DA grant by 60 days	S	1,239	1,201	10,579	120	575	83	259	10	194		
	DA granted same time	S	18	1,213	2,469	266	195	63	70	24	46		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	0	S	92	1,129	22	76	S	30	S	20		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	0	S	23	392	6	35	S	9	S	6		
	Total	S	1,264	2,529	14,569	414	881	158	368	39	266		
2017*	No DA grant by 60 days	S	982	1,298	11,199	141	542	89	235	14	149		
	DA granted same time	0	16	1,321	2,321	312	141	81	55	S	40		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	S	65	1,087	S	66	S	29	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	0	S	25	425	S	21	S	6	0	S		
	Total	S	1,006	2,709	15,032	475	770	181	325	43	209		

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September year end	Period on benefit before DA granted	Primary incapacity					
		Substance abuse			Unspecified		
		SLP HC&D	JS- HCID	SLP HC&D	JS- HCID	SLP HC&D	JS- HCID
2014	No DA grant by 60 days	107	1,732	177	50		
	DA granted same time	116	273	273	72		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	118	8	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	53	0	S		
	Total	235	2,176	458	124		
2015	No DA grant by 60 days	91	1,714	143	40		
	DA granted same time	111	267	215	51		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	104	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	48	S	S		
	Total	212	2,133	374	94		
2016	No DA grant by 60 days	63	1,694	135	63		
	DA granted same time	78	239	200	S		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	98	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	48	S	0		
	Total	149	2,079	352	111		
2017*	No DA grant by 60 days	69	1,550	99	47		
	DA granted same time	75	183	144	S		
	DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant	S	87	S	S		
	DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant	S	27	S	0		
	Total	150	1,847	253	80		

Notes for all tables:

- Percentages have been rounded to nearest whole per cent.
- The table includes working age clients only (18 to 64 years).
- Disability Allowance can be paid to a client or on behalf of a partner or dependent child.
- Disability Allowances are paid in respect of costs related to Health Conditions and Disabilities.
- This is a count of JS-HCID & SLP HC&D grants.
- JS-HCID is Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability benefit.
- SLP HC&D is Supported Living Payment Health Condition and Disability
- SLP HC&D does not include Supported Living Payment Carer or Supported Living Payment Overseas.
- The period on the benefit before a DA granted is the period that the client was on the benefit before the Disability Allowance grant date.
- "No DA grant by 60 days" means a Disability Allowance had not been granted within 60 days of the benefit grant date.
- "DA granted same time" means the Disability Allowance grant date was the same date as the main benefit grant date.
- "DA granted 1 to 30 days after benefit grant" means the Disability Allowance was granted within 30 days after the benefit grant date.
- "DA granted 31 to 60 days after benefit grant" means the Disability Allowance was granted between 31 to 60 days after the benefit grant date.
- Primary incapacity is the incapacity recorded for the client receiving the benefit, and may be different than the reason for medical costs paid under the DA.
- 'Unspecified' primary incapacity refers mainly to clients who may not have had an incapacity (medical certificate) recorded in the system at the time of the benefit or DA grant.
- The primary incapacity recorded might not represent the primary incapacity where a client is in receipt of an allowance for a dependant.
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect clients privacy
- * Please note: Data for Disability Allowances granted for benefits commenced in the year ending September 2017 is not complete. This is because the 60 day window for checking for Disability Allowance grants had not passed as at extraction date 30 September 2017.