



17 APR 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 25 March 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The total number of people aged 65 or more who qualify for NZ Superannuation as of (any recent date you choose - say 1 March 2018)*
- *The number of people that qualify for NZ Super that have not applied to receive it or have voluntarily given up collecting it*

The Ministry holds information regarding the number of people in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) however the Ministry does not have visibility of all people aged over 65 who would meet the qualifications for NZS. For additional information regarding the eligibility for NZS please refer to Work and Income's website here:

The Benefit Fact Sheets report the number of people in receipt of NZS and are available on the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html

You may be interested to know that Statistics New Zealand publishes estimates of the New Zealand population by age and the most recent estimate for December 2017 is available here: <http://archive.stats.govt.nz/infoshare/ViewTable.aspx?pxID=9770da4a-dce8-4061-9b77-a95317d48116>.

Please refer to '*population>population estimates>estimated resident population by age & sex*'. Please note that the count of the population from the 2018 Census will be available late this year.

I can advise you that in the 2017 calendar year, 7 clients had their NZS cancelled for the reason 'Stopped on Customer's Request'.

As the Ministry does not have visibility of all people aged over 65 who would meet the qualifications for NZS, your request for the total number of people aged 65 or more who qualify for NZS and the number of people that have not applied to receive NZS is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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 available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter 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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response concerning New Zealand Superannuation, 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



Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager Ministerial and Executive Services