



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

12 NOV 2018



Dear 

On 18 October 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many civil defence payments have been paid out in relation to flooding at Piha in February and April this year?*
- *How many civil defence payments have been paid out in Auckland over the last five years, and which civil defence emergencies were they tagged for?*
- *How many civil defence payments have been paid out nationally this year, and which civil defence emergencies were they tagged for?*

The Ministry for Social Development is able to help those impacted by natural disasters and civil defence emergencies in a number of ways. Civil Defence Payments are only one type of assistance available to those who may be impacted. It is important that anyone impacted by an emergency contact the Ministry to discuss their needs and what assistance is available to them.

A person does not need to be on a benefit to qualify for a Civil Defence Payments and in most cases they are not income or asset tested. A civil defence declaration does not need to be made for Civil Defence Payments to be made, however the event does need to meet the guidelines for a civil defence emergency or adverse event. Further information about Civil Defence Payments can be found on the Work and Income website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/civil-defence-payment.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/civil-defence-payment.html)

The Ministry did not grant any Civil Defence Payments for flooding in Piha this year, and there have been no Civil Defence Payments made in the Auckland region over the past five years.

The following tables show the number of Civil Defence Payments granted by the Ministry between 1 January 2018 and 30 September 2018 broken down by the Civil Defence event they are associated with and by region.

**Table 1: The number of Civil Defence Payments granted from 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2018, broken down by event.**

<b>Event</b>	<b>Total payments</b>
Rotorua Lakes flooding 2018	166
Tolaga Bay Area Flood June 2018	65
Ex Cyclone Fehi, West Coast	63
Cyclone Gita	61
Esk-Rissington Flood March 2018	43
Tairāwhiti Flood June 2018	1
Lower South Island Floods 2017	1
Unspecified event	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>

**Note:**

- This is a number of grants approved, not a number of clients, a client may have more than one grant approved for each event.

**Table 2: The number of Civil Defence Payments granted from 1 January 2018 to 30 September 2018, broken down by region.**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Total payments</b>
Northland	5
Auckland Metro	0
Waikato	0
Taranaki	3
Bay of Plenty	153
East Coast	125
Central	0
Nelson	72
Canterbury	0
Southern	0
Other	44
<b>Total</b>	<b>402</b>

**Note:**

- 'Region' refers to the region where the grant is recommended. It may not be the same region as where the event or emergency occurred.
- 'Other' refers to contact centres, centralised collection unit and Studylink processing centres.
- This is a number of grants approved, not a number of clients, a client may have more than one grant approved for each event.

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

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Civil Defence Payments, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Wise', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cassandra Wise  
**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**