



12 DEC 2019

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On 6 November 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Data on a year by year basis and regional basis for the years 2010-2018:*
 - *Grants for paying for a warrant of fitness*
 - *Grants for paying vehicle licensing*
 - *Grants for vehicle repair*
 - *Grants for vehicle purchase*
- *Please also advise what level of detail this data is available to (eg for vehicle repair, do you hold information on the type or age of the vehicle and the repair needed)?*
- *Please also advise if grants are provided on condition that the vehicle repairs or vehicle purchase are performed by a qualified mechanic or bought from a registered motor vehicle trader.*

A beneficiary may be granted a payment to be made for repairs to a vehicle where the use of a car is essential for the client or their dependent partner and children. The car should be considered essential due to illness, disability, employment, or lack of access to public transport.

In order to receive a payment, the supplier of the service (eg. mechanic) must be registered with the Ministry as a supplier. In order to be considered for registration, all suppliers must meet Ministry standard criteria. For more information about the registration of service suppliers, please see the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/supplier-registration/

The Ministry provides hardship assistance through the following types of assistance; Recoverable Assistance Payments, Special Needs Grants, and Advance Payment of Benefit (Advances).

Recoverable assistance provides beneficiaries and people on low incomes with interest free loans to help them meet an immediate need for essential items, like paying late utility bills or rent, buying essential household appliances, or meeting urgent needs for children. Repayment arrangements are agreed at the outset, taking their circumstances and financial situation into account. The Ministry aims to ensure that clients make the best decisions regarding recoverable assistance to avoid creating debt.

Special Needs Grants provides non-taxable, one-off recoverable or non-recoverable financial assistance to clients to meet immediate needs. A client does not have to be getting a benefit to qualify for Special Needs Grants.

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Advances provides non-taxable, interest free, recoverable assistance for clients who require assistance to meet a particular immediate need for an essential item.

For your information please find attached a table showing the number of Hardship Payments and amount granted for Vehicle Repairs for the period between 1 January 2010 to 30 September 2019, broken down by payment type and region.

Due to the introduction of a new client management system in 2012 there was a change to how hardship assistance grants were recorded. Certain categories of grants previously coded as Special Needs Grants, are now granted as Recoverable Assistance or Advances.

In regards to your request for data on grants broken down by vehicle type, age of vehicle or by required service type (warrant of fitness, licensing, repair or purchase) I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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. 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, 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



Bridget Saunders
Team Manager Issue Resolution

The number of Hardship Payments and amount granted for Vehicle Repairs for the period between 1 January 2010 to 30 September 2019, broken down by payment type and region.

Payment type and Region	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019 (to September)				
	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount	Number	Amount			
ADV	Northland	3,526	\$1,420,464.44	2,804	\$1,219,754.05	2,540	\$1,129,128.70	2,561	\$1,150,415.71	2,740	\$1,193,208.50	2,977	\$1,371,523.11	3,312	\$1,565,432.98	3,077	\$1,536,224.84	3,293	\$1,660,880.95	3,163	\$1,799,132.01		
	Auckland Metro	8,354	\$3,032,862.57	5,836	\$2,026,842.95	5,263	\$2,825,417.23	4,998	\$2,824,259.37	5,231	\$2,878,599.78	6,483	\$3,014,821.74	8,326	\$3,780,724.95	7,835	\$3,591,524.48	10,177	\$7,334,222.04	10,802	\$9,258,418.50		
	Waikato	3,256	\$1,260,831.34	2,183	\$876,751.80	2,158	\$944,374.26	1,977	\$849,836.66	2,109	\$924,493.20	2,388	\$1,008,521.91	2,838	\$1,423,066.83	2,508	\$1,518,957.41	3,581	\$1,885,044.16	3,581	\$2,097,811.00		
	Taranaki	1,455	\$568,086.25	1,047	\$444,736.16	825	\$334,811.53	860	\$351,739.83	937	\$392,799.59	1,049	\$456,246.36	1,239	\$575,957.97	1,480	\$692,768.39	1,640	\$698,610.35	2,378	\$1,268,468.06		
	Bay of Plenty	2,858	\$1,047,708.72	1,847	\$745,704.24	1,686	\$721,053.51	1,760	\$726,534.38	1,944	\$829,452.38	2,036	\$876,375.49	2,459	\$1,130,745.06	2,900	\$1,457,532.69	3,409	\$1,755,440.85	3,504	\$1,964,283.38		
	East Coast	2,292	\$939,350.20	1,658	\$710,821.19	1,564	\$717,809.42	1,449	\$666,669.84	1,437	\$660,658.57	1,543	\$739,721.04	1,579	\$792,350.36	1,972	\$1,053,284.99	2,298	\$1,263,235.47	2,219	\$1,355,443.35		
	Central	1,863	\$706,843.18	1,384	\$616,997.91	1,319	\$639,783.40	1,311	\$659,433.57	1,430	\$678,922.13	1,351	\$678,264.83	1,507	\$692,959.07	1,813	\$921,327.13	2,204	\$1,240,741.98	2,356	\$1,378,881.71		
	Wellington	1,671	\$699,043.97	1,118	\$465,136.95	1,073	\$499,139.28	912	\$457,178.54	893	\$415,110.98	862	\$503,877.40	1,097	\$578,624.98	1,305	\$708,487.81	1,769	\$1,048,939.72	1,908	\$1,220,711.27		
	Nelson	1,004	\$329,991.69	799	\$293,619.32	673	\$253,420.35	710	\$274,809.21	669	\$256,177.34	756	\$310,579.13	815	\$355,951.05	1,013	\$465,082.30	1,071	\$506,099.87	1,110	\$576,061.89		
	Canterbury	1,621	\$695,462.68	1,070	\$319,835.35	1,068	\$328,201.65	708	\$328,606.70	669	\$324,636.70	756	\$348,860.69	842	\$420,068.33	1,036	\$507,702.56	1,286	\$656,844.38	1,284	\$737,369.90		
	Southern	1,650	\$552,679.81	1,357	\$482,333.28	1,004	\$370,599.92	902	\$373,722.79	1,017	\$391,548.41	1,077	\$447,904.25	1,133	\$488,218.65	1,326	\$559,235.24	1,519	\$656,159.88	1,417	\$682,575.26		
	Other	1,738	\$713,741.91	1,898	\$902,885.54	1,734	\$856,489.01	1,810	\$856,489.01	1,852	\$901,701.59	1,852	\$901,701.59	1,852	\$901,701.59	1,852	\$901,701.59	1,852	\$901,701.59	1,852	\$901,701.59		
	Subtotal	31,688	\$13,016,818.58	23,557	\$10,299,208.74	20,912	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43	20,948	\$9,735,738.43
	RAP	Northland	43	\$18,128.87	145	\$67,713.86	S	\$68,011.84	191	\$88,208.96	203	\$97,208.87	231	\$116,844.67	208	\$115,682.52	217	\$107,519.32	293	\$157,871.81	365	\$197,871.81	
Auckland Metro		83	\$40,878.08	464	\$247,769.73	451	\$247,769.73	430	\$252,017.89	451	\$252,017.89	480	\$283,184.01	474	\$301,010.76	660	\$500,710.07	721	\$683,871.17	965	\$845,568.34		
Waikato		28	\$14,348.35	162	\$67,314.01	S	\$77,473.72	136	\$69,613.95	134	\$65,594.49	132	\$71,162.14	192	\$101,783.98	119	\$115,184.77	303	\$175,259.04	309	\$211,133.91		
Taranaki		19	\$9,470.47	101	\$44,738.77	S	\$25,940.75	44	\$21,098.82	50	\$22,720.78	54	\$37,591.66	67	\$37,591.66	100	\$51,778.18	129	\$64,887.87	139	\$61,022.01		
Bay of Plenty		33	\$12,855.13	174	\$70,889.28	159	\$71,874.57	148	\$65,181.83	182	\$76,851.39	181	\$80,238.63	248	\$120,017.87	263	\$200,024.29	456	\$246,506.42	474	\$261,510.58		
East Coast		33	\$17,485.07	161	\$68,328.02	161	\$89,758.31	167	\$78,454.90	158	\$73,130.84	168	\$88,310.57	183	\$85,103.54	200	\$108,862.41	284	\$157,019.24	368	\$192,868.57		
Central		28	\$11,880.31	74	\$33,553.64	S	\$52,861.54	116	\$58,215.84	99	\$43,782.57	108	\$57,549.59	110	\$58,092.41	168	\$93,405.68	203	\$112,331.17	214	\$118,461.95		
Wellington		42	\$19,402.00	119	\$69,325.23	S	\$59,847.60	91	\$48,050.33	87	\$52,739.89	78	\$41,757.79	104	\$56,097.88	140	\$85,247.55	156	\$102,128.15	172	\$121,560.16		
Nelson		18	\$6,141.95	55	\$19,426.84	S	\$18,719.46	59	\$25,584.00	65	\$24,824.20	44	\$18,009.31	63	\$32,256.62	69	\$37,318.33	79	\$65,844.97	79	\$44,938.84		
Canterbury		29	\$15,789.94	86	\$39,377.50	S	\$34,571.77	73	\$38,621.98	73	\$43,921.98	50	\$34,151.69	50	\$32,871.02	71	\$34,780.39	57	\$32,858.10	61	\$38,834.17		
Southern		10	\$3,266.38	49	\$17,404.53	S	\$24,029.42	60	\$24,488.85	59	\$26,311.22	63	\$26,399.55	78	\$26,371.78	87	\$44,076.09	95	\$56,902.60	91	\$47,098.12		
Other		29	\$9,195.08	84	\$34,288.16	S	\$41,189.48	78	\$41,189.48	94	\$41,613.88	121	\$57,808.98	125	\$100,073.50	118	\$108,259.89	274	\$166,808.70	402	\$242,464.56		
Subtotal		385	\$178,823.61	1,678	\$780,227.17	1,721	\$846,297.47	1,589	\$793,389.22	1,655	\$828,659.53	1,717	\$902,235.90	1,958	\$1,081,553.67	2,571	\$1,215,878.42	3,110	\$1,838,988.84	3,334	\$2,282,813.88		
SNG		Northland	123	\$50,138.64	104	\$46,150.63	S	\$1,424.88	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	
	Auckland Metro	203	\$99,875.87	127	\$63,012.80	S	\$3,533.66	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Waikato	108	\$42,590.17	66	\$27,619.04	S	\$586.38	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Taranaki	20	\$7,086.93	23	\$10,841.11	S	\$230.00	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Bay of Plenty	65	\$26,415.72	66	\$30,466.56	S	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	East Coast	96	\$37,088.73	82	\$38,451.99	S	\$2,274.64	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Central	45	\$22,355.86	26	\$11,076.55	S	\$270.00	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Wellington	69	\$31,590.13	53	\$26,451.49	S	\$1,170.94	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Nelson	24	\$8,878.18	22	\$7,887.78	S	\$419.40	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Canterbury	66	\$27,088.03	56	\$19,904.84	S	\$1,848.35	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Southern	50	\$18,368.65	34	\$11,121.08	S	\$420.00	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Other	9	\$2,724.47	9	\$2,854.99	S	\$644.00	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Subtotal	878	\$377,781.36	668	\$293,818.85	36	\$12,820.25	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0	0	\$0		
	Total	Northland	3,762	\$1,488,729.95	3,143	\$1,332,818.34	2,738	\$1,211,762.59	2,752	\$1,248,427.35	2,943	\$1,200,505.46	3,208	\$1,489,487.78	3,520	\$1,681,115.50	3,294	\$1,643,744.18	3,488	\$1,778,552.77	3,588	\$1,916,657.38	
Auckland Metro		8,640	\$4,073,814.30	6,427	\$3,227,825.37	5,722	\$3,090,868.78	5,426	\$3,090,868.78	5,682	\$3,090,868.78	5,963	\$3,299,095.75	6,780	\$4,081,735.71	6,656	\$3,592,524.35	11,037	\$7,898,098.21	11,657	\$9,803,818.94		
Waikato		3,292	\$1,217,769.86	2,414	\$971,884.85	2,239	\$1,022,434.36	2,113	\$909,450.21	2,243	\$985,087.99	2,520	\$1,109,884.05	3,030	\$1,525,450.21	3,215	\$1,644,141.69	3,890	\$2,206,744.91				
Taranaki		1,494	\$584,643.65	1,171	\$500,318.04	896	\$370,788.28	904	\$372,838.68	987	\$415,833.85	1,103	\$475,987.12	1,306	\$613,549.63	1,680	\$744,576.57	2,089	\$1,091,487.22	2,517	\$1,278,918.07		
Bay of Plenty		2,956	\$1,096,984.57	2,087	\$845,750.08	1,842	\$791,716.21	1,908	\$792,928.08	2,126	\$908,134.27	2,217	\$956,614.12	2,687	\$1,250,762.88	3,223	\$1,587,568.05	3,865	\$2,201,958.28	3,976	\$2,255,793.96		
East Coast		2,421	\$993,835.00	1,801	\$815,590.10	1,767	\$809,840.37	1,616	\$742,124.34	1,595	\$733,800.21	1,711	\$828,031.61	1,742	\$877,454.00	2,172	\$1,161,947.40	2,582	\$1,420,245.71	2,417	\$1,478,906.02		
Central		1,656	\$630,879.47	1,484	\$661,228.10	1,420	\$692,724.94	1,427	\$723,894.90	1,529	\$723,894.90	1,456	\$885,814.42	1,707	\$981,001.48	2,079	\$1,014,732.79	2,670	\$1,497,143.86				
Wellington		1,762	\$750,036.10	1,290	\$577,913.67	1,185	\$550,157.80	1,023	\$505,428.87	952	\$467,849.77	1,038	\$545,435.19	1,201	\$635,322.48	1,445	\$781,715.36	1,624	\$1,150,937.87	2,080	\$1,342,271.43		
Nelson		1,045	\$345,011.82	633	\$290,913.74	725	\$272,559.21	799	\$309,473.81	734	\$281,001.94	800	\$328,588.44	878	\$388,207.87								