



08 APR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 30 March 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *From the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy scheme: for all Wage Subsidy applications in March 2020:*
 - *Date and time of application.*
 - *Date and time of MSD contact with client (if available).*
 - *Method of contact (if available).*
 - *Date and time of outcome.*
 - *Outcome (ACCEPTED/REJECTED expected)*

The Ministry is working hard to process the large volume of applications being received at this time for wage subsidies and other support.

As at 11pm on 1 April 2020, the Ministry had received 400,724 applications for wage subsidies, modified wage subsidies, and leave payments. 751,881 people were benefitting from paid applications, including 635,981 employees, and 115,900 self-employed people.

The Ministry intends to proactively release information regarding successful wage subsidy applications and payments. As such, the part of your request that relates to accepted applications is refused under section 18(d) of the Act. The information requested will soon be publicly available.

The Ministry's reporting does not currently allow for the date and time of each application to be centrally collated. As such, in order to provide this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of individual applications.

Similarly, in order to provide the date, time, and method by which Ministry staff contacted each applicant, and the date and time at which each application was accepted or declined, Ministry staff would have to manually review each individual application.

As such, these parts of your request are refused under section 18(f) of the Act as they would require substantial manual collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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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 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 regarding the processing of COVID-19 Wage Subsidy applications, 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

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