



11 AUG 2020

Dear

On 9 June 2020, you requested *all information held regarding the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment* and further information. On 14 July 2020, you cancelled this request. Also on 14 July 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

With regards to clause 6(1)(d) and any other clause of the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Programme that prevents those who have worked a single day as a casual employee since being made redundant from accessing the support they are entitled to:

- *Documents and policies that this clause was formed from*
- *All correspondence between Government ministers/members of Parliament and MSD*
- *Copies of notes of personal discussions and recordings of phone calls on the subject*

Clause 6(1)(d) of the COVID-19 Income Relief Programme (CIRP) reads:

"MSD may grant an applicant assistance under this programme if MSD is satisfied that the person has not been in employment of any kind since their qualifying loss of employment, except if subclause (3) applies."

The Ministry can confirm that the CIRP does not contain any other similar clauses.

The following documents fall in scope of your request as they refer to the subject of clause 6(1)(d) of the CIRP and are publicly available:

- Report: *Further detailed advice on a temporary income relief payment*, dated 22 April 2020, see paragraph 63 et seq., available at www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Further-detailed-advice-on-a-temporary-income-relief-payment-23-Apr-2020.pdf
- Aide-memoire (REP/20/4/440): *Temporary income relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19*, dated 28 April 2020 (for content relating to clause 6(1)(d), see page 4, second bullet point), available at www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM14-

[Aide-memoire-Temporary-Income-Relief-for-People-Who-Have-Lost-Their-Jo....pdf.](#)

- Cabinet Paper: *Temporary income relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19*, dated 28 April 2020 (for content relating to clause 6(1)(d), see recommendation 6), available at [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM4-Paper-and-minute-Temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-have-lost-thei....pdf.](#)
- Report: *Key policy decisions on temporary income relief for people who have lost their job due to COVID-19 (updated)*, dated 5 May 2020, see recommendation 18, available at [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-june/Report-Key-policy-decisions-on-temporary-income-relief-for-people-who-....pdf.](#)
- Report (REP/20/5/508): *COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Programme*, dated 25 May 2020 (for content relating to clause 6(1)(d), see paragraph 7), available at [www.covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/proactive-release-2020-july/ISM3-Report-COVID-19-Income-Relief-Payment-Programme-25-May-2020.pdf.](#)

As these documents are publicly available, your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

With regard to correspondence, the Ministry has looked through correspondence between the Ministry and the Minister's Office or Members of Parliament for the period 7 April 2020 to 14 July 2020. The Ministry can confirm that no correspondence between these parties is in scope of your request as clause 6(1)(d) of the CIRP has not been the subject of such correspondence. The Ministry can also confirm that no copies of notes of personal discussions and recordings of phone calls exist on the subject. The Ministry has not created meeting notes on the subject and has not recorded phone calls that have referred to the subject.

Your request for this information is therefore refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

Please note, the CIRP was implemented under very tight timeframes, when the Ministry was already experiencing, and was expected to continue experiencing, significant operational pressures due to the impacts of COVID-19. The eligibility criteria for the CIRP needed to be administratively simple to be feasible to implement in these circumstances.

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
- 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 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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding clause 6(1)(d) of the CIRP, 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



Polly Vowles
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Welfare System and Income Support Policy