



25 AUG 2020

Tēnā koe

On 29 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding the Self-Employment Start-Up Payment and Business Training and Advice Grant:

- *The limit of the business start-up grant that is not part of the flexi-wage.*
- *The limit of the business and advice grant that is separate from the start up grant and flexi-wage subsidy.*

The Ministry offers the following supports to assist eligible clients to investigate or enter self-employment:

- Business Training and Advice Grant (BTAG)
- Self-Employment Start-Up (SESU), and
- Flexi-Wage Self-Employment.

The BTAG is designed to assist clients who are investigating or entering self-employment. The grant provides up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 (including GST). A client can apply more than once, but the total amount cannot be more than \$1,000 in a 52-week period. The BTAG should help the client make an informed decision about whether it is viable for them to become self-employed and/or improve their ability to administer and manage the development of a business. It should also help them determine if they would be better off in full-time employment rather than self-employment.

The SESU grant is a lump sum payment (or several payments) up to a total of \$10,000.00 (including GST) for essential business start-up costs. This grant can be paid on its own or in conjunction with a FWSE subsidy. There is no formal application form. However, clients are required to prepare a business plan, and have it independently assessed by a Vetting Agent. This can be supported by BTAG if required.

More information about assistance to enter self-employment can be found on our website: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/work-for-yourself/index.html>

In regard to your previous Official Information Act response of 29 June 2020, please note the correction to Table One, copied overleaf.

**Table One: Regional breakdown of Flexi-Wage Self-Employment Wage Subsidy for the 2019/2020 financial year.**

Region	Financial year 2019-20	
	Maximum (\$)	Average (\$)
Auckland	18,000	2,058
Bay of Plenty	23,000	6,800
Canterbury	27,360	12,032
Central	8,000	7,000
East Coast	10,000	8,390
Nelson	10,166	7,729
Northland	15,900	9,810
Southern	21,910	2,663
Taranaki	-	-
Waikato	9,072	7,220
Wellington	14,425	9,970

**Notes:**

- Maximum amounts are the maximum individual rates paid in the given year, not maximum possible, or 'cap'. These amounts are decided on a case by case basis.
- **The maximum amounts for all regions include the start-up grant cost.**
- The Taranaki region expected low levels of take up in the 2020 financial year for the Flexi-Wage Self-Employment Wage Subsidy. The budgeted amount was instead incorporated into the Flexi-Wage Subsidy.

I apologise for the previous incorrect note and any inconvenience this may have caused you. The correct note (second bullet point) is bolded for clarity.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the maximum payable under the Business Training and Advice Grant (BTAG) and Self-Employed Stat-Up (SESU), 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bridget Saunders', written in a cursive style.

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager**  
**Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**