



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 AUG 2020

Dear

On 7 August 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many people were on the Job Seeker Benefit as at the end of the June quarter this year?*

Information and statistics on benefit payments paid by the Ministry to members of the New Zealand public are available on the Ministry's website. The information requested can be found at the following link: www.ms.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html.

The specific data you are requesting can be found in the Excel spreadsheet published within this link, entitled *National level data tables – June 2020*. The information is contained within the *JS – last 5 years* tab of the spreadsheet. This information is published quarterly, and the next update is scheduled for September 2020.

As the information you are requesting is publicly available, your request is refused pursuant to section 18(d) of the Act.

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 relating to information on job seeker benefits paid by the Ministry, 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



Kate Satterthwaite
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services