



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

2 AUG 2021

Dear

On 30 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding the Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS):

- *Could you please advise if there have been any updates to this scheme since the last file was provided in March?*

On 14 July 2021, you refined your request to the following:

- *I was just looking for the latter; general/contextual information on whether the WSS has been updated since my last request. If so, we may proceed to request another updated document but at this point we are just looking for confirmation if that's necessary.*

Since March 2021, there have been no policy updates or subsequent versions of the WSS, but some of the settings have been clarified. Further advice has been provided about the treatment of commonly owned groups under the Scheme. Ministers considered the eligibility criteria for commonly owned groups and clarified the settings for these.

A report-back regarding the Scheme's activation approach has also been provided. Status quo policy settings were considered appropriate and have therefore stayed in place.

Please contact us if you require an updated version of the dataset behind the WSS employer search tool. This dataset may have received minor updates since your previous request as further WSS payments may have been made or repaid since then.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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

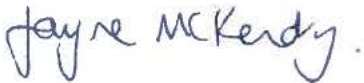
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available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the 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 updates to the Wage Subsidy Scheme, 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



PP · Megan Beecroft
Policy Manager
Employment and Housing Policy