



Tēnā koe

On 7 July 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. The latest figures for the total number of overseas government pensions subjected to direct deduction from Superannuation under Section 187-190 of the Social Security Act by countries and amounts including the combined total.*
- 2. The latest figures for the total number of people who are eligible for Superannuation and who also receive overseas govt pensions but chose not to receive Superannuation only their overseas govt pensions.*

On 3 August 2021, you were advised that more time was required in order to provide you with a response.

On 11 June 2020, you were provided the number and annualised value of deductions made under section 189 of the Social Security Act 2018, formerly section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964, broken down by the country of origin, as at the end of March 2019 and March 2020.

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will answer your questions in turn.

- 1. The latest figures for the total number of overseas government pensions subjected to direct deduction from Superannuation under Section 187-190 of the Social Security Act by countries and amounts including the combined total.*

Please find attached below **Table One**, which outlines the number of overseas pension deductions and amounts to New Zealand Superannuation clients as at end of March 2021.

Table One: The number of overseas pension deductions and amounts to New Zealand Superannuation clients as at end of March 2021.

Country	End of March 2021	
	Number	Annualised excess amount
Albania	S	\$10,086.84
Argentina	S	\$8,495.40
Australia	21,504	\$109,884,519.57
Austria	21	\$202,298.52
Azerbaijan	S	\$6,369.48
Belarus	S	\$6,326.88
Belgium	27	\$140,018.76

Table One: The number of overseas pension deductions and amounts to New Zealand Superannuation clients as at end of March 2021.

Country	End of March 2021	
	Number	Annualised excess amount
Bermuda	S	\$27,535.08
Bosnia and Herzegovina	S	\$14,345.52
Brazil	S	\$14,785.80
Bulgaria	30	\$103,621.44
Canada	3,666	\$15,193,878.60
Chile	S	\$9,569.04
Colombia	S	\$1,030.64
Cook Islands	S	\$2,809.92
Croatia	48	\$226,350.72
Cyprus	S	\$3,050.53
Czechoslovakia	12	\$60,770.88
Denmark	153	\$748,138.47
Egypt	12	\$27,762.36
Fiji	60	\$230,474.57
Finland	9	\$57,402.72
France	126	\$514,701.98
French Polynesia	S	\$10,384.56
Germany	666	\$4,856,739.29
Greece	9	\$27,159.48
Guernsey	138	\$802,394.04
Hong Kong	0	\$0
Hungary	15	\$58,171.60
Ireland	405	\$1,979,236.68
Isle of Man	42	\$173,513.37
Israel	S	\$22,535.88
Italy	18	\$214,860.97
Jamaica	S	\$2,784.73
Japan	174	\$1,294,369.57
Jersey	123	\$621,818.60
Korea, Republic of	66	\$345,873.36
Latvia	S	\$10,260.72
Lithuania	S	\$15,967.68
Macau	S	\$11,811.84
Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic	42	\$230,821.68
Malaysia	9	\$56,104.32

Table One: The number of overseas pension deductions and amounts to New Zealand Superannuation clients as at end of March 2021.

Country	End of March 2021	
	Number	Annualised excess amount
Malta	15	\$79,967.69
Montenegro	S	\$2,774.40
New Caledonia	9	\$63,854.28
Nigeria	S	\$1,040.64
Niue	S	\$3,043.56
Norway	18	\$173,913.24
Peru	S	\$10,762.20
Philippines	462	\$838,964.45
Poland	48	\$319,955.52
Portugal	S	\$19,970.51
Romania	42	\$312,561.12
Russian Federation	321	\$1,078,407.84
Samoa, Western	15	\$17,651.70
Serbia	39	\$168,749.62
Singapore	93	\$576,264.76
Slovakia	6	\$43,792.80
Slovenia	S	\$23,514.84
Spain	S	\$14,209.44
Sri Lanka	15	\$27,206.16
Sudan	S	\$1,420.92
Sweden	144	\$713,110.98
Switzerland	540	\$3,228,619.07
Tahiti	S	\$10,771.08
Taiwan	552	\$2,064,756.38
Thailand	48	\$33,000.24
The Netherlands	4,584	\$25,566,628.36
Turkey	S	\$10,113.36
Ukraine	S	\$1,841.88
United Kingdom	60,723	\$257,748,348.57
United States of America	900	\$10,811,923.32
Vietnam	S	\$2,789.96
Total	96,030	\$442,199,080.98

Notes for Table One:

- This is a number of Overseas Pensions and Veteran's Pensions.
- The country given is where the Overseas Pension is paid from
- The annualised amount is in New Zealand dollars. It is an approximation of the annual value of overseas pensions, based on amounts and exchange rates as at time of report.
- Figures are current as at the time of reporting. However, these may be subject to change due to new historical information being recorded into MSD systems. Post-June 2016 numbers and deductions are calculated using an improved methodology, which excludes some Overseas Pension records that are in the system but not deducted from the recipients NZS.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.
- In certain circumstances low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified.
- Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of clients have been suppressed or aggregated.
- Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.

2. *The latest figures for the total number of people who are eligible for Superannuation and who also receive overseas govt pensions but chose not to receive Superannuation only their overseas govt pensions.*

In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, I refuse this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 regarding overseas pensions subject to direct deduction from Superannuation, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
Manager
Issue Resolution