



14 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 12 May 2021, you requested of the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Information and education on how and where the payment card can be used.*
- *A copy of the full list of registered suppliers that the payment card may be used as of 11 May 2021.*

Your request for information on the Ministry's payment card information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is publicly available. Information about the payment card can be found online at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/payment-card-suppliers/index.html.

In order to provide you with the full list of registered suppliers for the payment card, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. This is due to the number of supplier names being in excess of 66,000, furthermore Ministry staff would have to manually review this information and remove any individual names who are registered sole suppliers in our system. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as 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 requests 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.

In the spirit of the Act, please find the attached excel spreadsheet showing a list of registered suppliers, who received a hardship grant for clients in the Kapiti Coast District Territorial Local Authority between 1 May 2019 and 30 April 2021.

You will note that some of the registered supplier names have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bridget Saunders', written over a horizontal line.

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