



25 February 2022

Tēnā koe

On 28 January 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Could you please give me the number of Special Needs Grants (SNG) for food grants issued by the Queenstown Office for the quarters ending December 2019, March 2020, June 2020, September 2020 and December 2020.*

Please see **Table One** below, which shows the number of Food grants (Special Needs Grants) issued by the Queenstown Service Centre from 1 October 2019 to 31 December 2020, broken down by quarter.

You will note a sharp increase in the amount of SNGs for food in the quarter ending 30 June 2020. The year 2020 saw a significant increase in demand for financial assistance as the Ministry supported people through the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 Special Needs Grants granted by the Queenstown Service Centre, 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
Service Delivery**

Table One: Number of Food grants (Special Needs Grants) issued by the Queenstown Service Centre from 01 October 2019 to 31 December 2020, broken down by quarter.

Quarter Ending	Number of Grants	Amount Granted
December 2019	63	\$7,301.00
March 2020	63	\$8,742.00
June 2020	150	\$23,027.00
September 2020	114	\$13,444.00
December 2020	93	\$10,264.37

Notes for Table One:

- This is a count of grants not a count of clients. A client may have multiple grants in a period.
- The amount granted may not be the same as the amount spent.
- 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. 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.