



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

25 March 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:

- *Please supply any statistical data resulting from the review of the above 1000 recipients.*
- *Please supply any currently available statistical data resulting from the checking of verifying documents received from 339 recipients.*

As at 4 February 2022, 334 of the 339 recipients have provided documentary verification to support their entitlement with 89 per cent of these requiring no further action and 9 per cent requiring a partial or full refund. Four recipients have been referred for investigation.

In regard to the sample of 1,000 early Wage Subsidy recipients written to, as at October 2021, 535 replies had been received, of which 532 employers confirmed they met the eligibility criteria and complied with their obligations.

Reminder emails to non-respondents were delayed due to the establishment of the August 2021 Wage Subsidy scheme and were sent on 18 February 2022.

Final results from both these pieces of work will form part of the Ministry's assessment of what further integrity work needs to be completed, if any, to strengthen the integrity of the scheme.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the wage subsidy, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George Van Ooyen  
**Group General Manager**  
**Client Service Delivery**