

**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

19 May 2022

Dear

On 22 April 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Nine months ago the MSD wrote to 1,000 recipients of the wage subsidy and in February sent a reminder to those who had not responded. Could you please provide an update on what has happened with the 1,000 responses received?*
- 2. Could you also provide an update on what happened regarding all of the 339 recipients in a sample of 339 who were contacted?*

Your questions have been responded to below.

- 1. Nine months ago the MSD wrote to 1,000 recipients of the wage subsidy and in February sent a reminder to those who had not responded. Could you please provide an update on what has happened with the 1,000 responses received?*

In regard to the sample of 1,000 early Wage Subsidy recipients written to, as at May 2022, 717 replies had been received, of which 713 employers confirmed they met the eligibility criteria and complied with their obligations.

Two 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 and 8 April 2022. Where a recipient does not respond to the reminder emails, MSD intends to proactively contact them to confirm their response.

- 2. Could you also provide an update on what happened regarding all of the 339 recipients in a sample of 339 who were contacted?*

Please refer to part one and two of MSD's response, dated 5 May 2022, to your request received on 14 March 2022.

Furthermore, in our response dated 25 March 2022, we advised that 89 percent of responses received from this sample group confirmed entitlement and require no further action. We also advised that nine percent are required to make a partial or full refund, and that four recipients have been referred for investigation. These figures have not changed.

Final results from both of these pieces of work will form part of MSD'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 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.

MSD fully supports those principles and purposes. MSD therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. MSD will do this by publishing this letter on its website. Your personal details will be deleted and MSD 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 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George van Ooyen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

George van Ooyen  
**Group General Manager**  
**Client Service Support**