



26 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 29 March 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Please supply the following information under the Official Information Act (OIA):

- 1. The yearly cost of administering superannuation for the year ended 31 December 2022 (including amount paid out as well as operating costs).*
- 2. The yearly cost of administering Working for Families for the year ended 31 December 2022 (including amount paid out as well as operating costs).*
- 3. The yearly cost of administering the Childcare Supplement for the year ended 31 December 2022 (including amount paid out as well as operating costs).*
- 4. The yearly cost of administering the Accommodation Supplement for the year ended 31 December 2022 (including amount paid out as well as operating costs).*
- 5. The yearly cost of administering the Sole Parent Benefit for the year ended 31 December 2022 (including amount paid out as well as operating costs).*
- 6. The yearly cost of administering the Winter Energy Payment for the year ended 31 December 2022 (including amount paid out as well as operating costs).*

On 5 April 2023, the Ministry contacted you to clarify and refine your request. We requested that you refine your request by clarifying what you meant by 'operating costs'. We have not received your response to date, so we will proceed with your original request.

On 28 April 2023, the Ministry contacted you to advise that more time was required to respond to your request and that the Ministry's decision will be with you no later than 29 May 2023.

Please note, as advised by the Ministry on 19 May 2023, question 2 of your request has been transferred to Inland Revenue (IR) as the information you are requesting is believed to be held by IR. You can expect a response from IR for question 2 of your request in due course. The remaining of your request will be addressed in this response.

Your request for information on operating costs is very broad, and substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all documents within scope of your request. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

Please also note, your request for information on administering costs is also refused as the data is not currently formatted in a way to meet the needs of your request without substantial manual collation. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the 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.

Table One, immediately below, shows the amount paid out for the requested benefits from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022.

Table One: Expenditure on benefits from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

Benefit Type	Annual Expenditure in 2022 Calendar Year (\$m)
Accommodation Supplement	\$1,998
Childcare Assistance	\$131
Winter Energy Payment	\$515
New Zealand Superannuation	\$18,581
Sole Parent Support	\$1,832

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, 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**