



31 AUG 2018



Dear 

On 22 June 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- 1. The amount the Ministry has spent on the Training Incentive Allowance (TIA) for the past five years in the Northland region*
- 2. The number of applications there has been for the TIA, and how many of these were granted.*

Please find enclosed the following four tables:

- Table One shows the amount paid for the TIA as a supplementary allowance for on-going costs and lump sum payments for each financial year from 2012/13 to 2016/17, for New Zealand and the Northland region.
- Table Two shows the amount granted for TIA through Special Needs Grants for each calendar year from 2013 to 2017, for New Zealand and the Northland region.
- Table Three shows the number of applications for weekly TIA supplementary allowance for each calendar year from 2013 to 2017, for New Zealand and the Northland region.
- Table Four shows the number of applications for TIA through Special Needs Grants for each calendar year from 2013 to 2017, for New Zealand and the Northland region.

Please note that due to the ad hoc nature of lump sum TIA payments the Ministry is not able to capture every instance of the TIA being applied for and declined in the reporting system. As such, the data in Table Three provides an idea of the trends in the data but is not a robust representation of the total number of applicants.

You will note that some of the data is suppressed 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 available to the wider public shortly. 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 relating to the Training Incentive Allowance 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 TIA, 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Cassie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cassandra Wise  
**Team Manager, Issues Resolution**

**Table One: the amount paid for the TIA as a supplementary allowance for on-going costs and lump sum payments for each financial year from 2012/13 to 2016/17, broken down by the Northland region and all other regions.**

Financial Year	Amount Paid		
	Northland	Other Regions	All New Zealand
2012/13	\$288,091	\$4,405,340	<b>\$4,693,431</b>
2013/14	\$214,377	\$3,213,389	<b>\$3,427,766</b>
2014/15	\$238,496	\$2,649,191	<b>\$2,887,687</b>
2015/16	\$166,048	\$1,955,812	<b>\$2,121,860</b>
2016/17	\$92,962	\$1,477,165	<b>\$1,570,127</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$999,974</b>	<b>\$13,700,897</b>	<b>\$14,700,871</b>

**Table Two: the amount granted for TIA through Special Needs Grants for each calendar year from 2013 to 2017, broken down by the Northland region and all other regions.**

Calendar Year	Amount Granted		
	Northland	Other Regions	All New Zealand
2013	\$196,511	\$2,785,498	<b>\$2,982,010</b>
2014	\$204,933	\$1,831,217	<b>\$2,036,149</b>
2015	\$150,897	\$1,433,427	<b>\$1,584,324</b>
2016	\$63,262	\$855,324	<b>\$918,586</b>
2017	\$41,151	\$980,893	<b>\$1,022,044</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$656,754</b>	<b>\$7,886,359</b>	<b>\$8,543,113</b>

**Notes:**

- All figures have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar figure.
- The TIA can be paid as an on-going weekly amount or as a lump sum payment.
- The amount granted is not necessarily the same as amount spent.

**Table Three: number of applications for weekly TIA supplementary allowance during 2013 to 2017 broken down by the Northland region and all other regions.**

Calendar Year	Northland			Other Regions			All New Zealand		
	Decline	Grant	Total	Decline	Grant	Total	Decline	Grant	Total
2013	46	207	253	737	2,629	3,366	783	2,836	3,619
2014	39	141	180	513	1,536	2,049	552	1,677	2,229
2015	19	114	133	367	1,295	1,662	386	1,409	1,795
2016	20	76	96	197	855	1,052	217	931	1,148
2017	14	36	50	165	864	1,029	179	900	1,079
<b>Total</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>712</b>	<b>1,979</b>	<b>7,179</b>	<b>9,158</b>	<b>2,117</b>	<b>7,753</b>	<b>9,870</b>

**Notes:**

- The same client may have made more than one application in each year, or across several years. Therefore this is a count of applications not clients.

**Table Four: number of applications for TIA through Special Needs Grants during 2013 to 2017 broken down by the Northland region and all other regions.**

Calendar Year	Northland			Other Regions			All New Zealand		
	Decline	Grant	Total	Decline	Grant	Total	Decline	Grant	Total
2013	8	192	200	121	1,897	2,018	129	2,089	2,218
2014	18	168	186	118	1,399	1,517	136	1,567	1,703
2015	S	S	133	S	S	1,194	78	1,249	1,327
2016	S	S	86	S	S	771	44	813	857
2017	S	S	33	S	S	839	50	822	872
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>605</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>5,935</b>	<b>6,339</b>	<b>437</b>	<b>6,540</b>	<b>6,977</b>

**Notes:**

- The same client may have made more than one application in each year, or across several years. Therefore this is a count of applications not clients.
- 'S' represents a suppressed cell to protect clients privacy.