



Dear 

On 10 April 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A province by province (or area by area, or district by district) breakdown of people who opted not to receive the Winter Energy Payment.*

The Ministry provided you with information about the Winter Energy Payment on 10 April 2019, along with the number of people who opted-out of the Winter Energy Payment by main benefit type during the period 1 July 2018 to 29 September 2018.

The table below shows the number of opt-outs of the Winter Energy Payment during the period 1 July 2018 to 29 September 2018 by Work and Income region.

Work and Income Region	Winter Energy Payment Opt-Outs
Wellington	196
Nelson	97
East Coast	80
Waikato	157
Southern	170
Taranaki	77
Northland	95
Bay of Plenty	152
Central	129
Auckland Metro	673
Canterbury	218
Other	99
Total	2,143

Please note that geographic breakdowns are only available by the service centre responsible for the client's case management. A client may not necessarily reside in the same area as their service centre. The 'Other' region includes clients managed from non-regional service centres such as the Centralised Unit Housing service centre, Studylink Processing Centre, National Office and NZ Super service centres.

Please note that clients who opted out of the Winter Energy Payment by mistake and were subsequently re-granted the payment, and clients who opted out and then in again are not included in this response.

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 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 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.

Yours sincerely



Cassandra Wise

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