



Dear [REDACTED]

On 22 May 2019, the Ministry's Christchurch Contact Centre emailed the Ministry on your behalf requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How long would a person on the Jobseeker's benefit be on this for, and how long would it take for them to secure full time employment*

Jobseeker Support is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. If clients still require Jobseeker Support after 52 weeks, they must complete the 52 week reapplication process.

Anyone in receipt of Jobseeker Support main benefit (without a medical deferral) has full time work obligations. This means that people must actively be searching for a job or be in part-time employment seeking more work. There is a range of support available through Work and Income to help people to secure work. You can read more about this here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/index.html)

Please find enclosed, Table One which presents the number of all cancellations for people receiving a working age Jobseeker Support Benefit for the quarter ending 31 March 2019 and Table Two which presents the number of cancellations for people receiving a working age Jobseeker Support Benefit due to obtaining work for the quarter ending 31 March 2019. Both tables also present the duration individuals are receiving the benefit.

Please note that the amount of assistance people receive will change as their circumstances do. For example, a person may receive income and a small amount of financial assistance or move between benefit types due to illness. As such, "continuous duration" does not mean that a person is in receipt of the maximum amount payable throughout the period.

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 regarding Jobseeker Support further 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 'Cassandra Wise', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cassandra Wise

**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Table One: Number of all cancellations for working age Jobseeker Support Benefit for the quarter ending 31 March 2019 by continuous duration on benefit.**

Quarter end	Continuous duration on any working age main benefit										TOTAL	
	< 3 months	>3-6 months	>6 mths-1 year	>1-2 years	>2-3 years	>3-4 years	>4-5 years	>5-6 years	>6-8 years	>8-10 years		Over 10 years
Mar-19	8,028	6,147	7,316	4,282	1,476	964	479	261	369	268	606	<b>30,196</b>

**Table Two: Number of cancellations for working age Jobseeker Support Benefit for the reason 'Obtained work' for the quarter ending 31 March 2019 by continuous duration on benefit.**

Quarter end	Continuous duration on any working age main benefit										TOTAL	
	< 3 months	>3-6 months	>6 mths-1 year	>1-2 years	>2-3 years	>3-4 years	>4-5 years	>5-6 years	>6-8 years	>8-10 years		Over 10 years
Mar-19	4,942	3,494	3,451	1,874	660	332	168	92	121	70	146	<b>15,350</b>

Note:

- This is a number of cancellations, not number of clients.
- A client may appear more than once during the reported period.
- The tables include working age clients only (18 to 64 years).
- Continuous duration is the length of time the person has continuously been receiving any working age main benefit.