



[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

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

- *For each of the last 5 years, please provide me with data showing the total number of applications for an emergency benefit made in each period, and the number of those applications that were granted. The data should show the percentage of emergency applications granted as a proportion of the overall number of applications*

The Emergency Benefit is an income and asset tested benefit payable to people who are in hardship and who are unable to earn enough income for themselves and their family and cannot receive another benefit. The Emergency Benefit is generally paid at the same rate as the benefit that best fits the client's reason that they cannot earn a sufficient livelihood. More information about the Emergency Benefit and who may qualify to receive it can be found on the Work and Income website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/emergency-benefit/qualifications.html.

Please find enclosed Table One showing the total number of applications for an Emergency Benefit for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2019, the number of those applications that were granted and the percentage of emergency applications granted as a proportion of the overall number of applications.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PP B...'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Cassandra Wise
Manager Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Table One: The total number of Emergency Benefit applications processed and granted, by quarter in the period 1 April 2014 to 30 March 2019.

Quarter ending	Grants	Applications processed	Percentage
Jun-14	2,462	2,876	85.61%
Sep-14	2,576	3,002	85.81%
Dec-14	2,793	3,278	85.20%
Mar-15	1,830	2,204	83.03%
Jun-15	2,290	2,631	87.04%
Sep-15	2,905	3,347	86.79%
Dec-15	2,622	3,107	84.39%
Mar-16	1,877	2,255	83.24%
Jun-16	1,987	2,290	86.77%
Sep-16	2,343	2,656	88.22%
Dec-16	2,316	2,765	83.76%
Mar-17	1,675	2,183	76.73%
Jun-17	1,543	1,968	78.40%
Sep-17	1,493	1,922	77.68%
Dec-17	1,893	2,351	80.52%
Mar-18	1,180	1,505	78.41%
Jun-18	1,235	1,480	83.45%
Sep-18	1,242	1,516	81.93%
Dec-18	1,768	2,075	85.20%
Mar-19	1,145	1,413	81.03%

Notes:

- This is a count of grants, not a count of clients;
- A client may have more than one application or grant in the period;
- Applications processed include grants and declines.