



03 APR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 4 February 2020, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) received your request, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), for information regarding New Zealand Superannuation.

For the sake of clarity, I will address each of your questions in turn.

- *What was the total cost of Superannuation every year for the past 10 years? (broken down into year group)*

The below table shows the value appropriated (actual) each financial year since June 2010 for New Zealand Superannuation payments.

| Financial year | Appropriation |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2009/10 | \$8,289,830,000 |
| 2010/11 | \$8,830,246,000 |
| 2011/12 | \$9,583,511,000 |
| 2012/13 | \$10,234,977,000 |
| 2013/14 | \$10,913,103,000 |
| 2014/15 | \$11,591,026,000 |
| 2015/16 | \$12,266,832,000 |
| 2016/17 | \$13,043,292,000 |
| 2017/18 | \$13,698,735,000 |
| 2018/19 | \$14,562,259,000 |

Note:

- These are actual figures, not forecasts
- Financial years are the period between 1 July to 30 June.

- *Over the past 10 years, how many people declined to receive Superannuation? (broken down into year group)*

No central record exists of people who decline to receive a benefit, including New Zealand Superannuation. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as it is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe that it is held by any other organisation.

- *Over the past 10 years how many people have received additional retirement payments from overseas? (broken down into year group)*

Under section 173 of the Social Security Act 2018, a person applying for any New Zealand benefit, including New Zealand Superannuation, must take reasonable steps to obtain any overseas pension to which they may be entitled. Receipt of a pension which is administered by, or on behalf of, another government may impact the rate at which New Zealand Superannuation is paid.

As such, the Ministry holds information regarding the number of overseas pensions received by people who are, or would otherwise be, receiving New Zealand Superannuation or the Veteran's Pension. The table below provides this information for the past ten calendar years.

Table one: New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pensions where the recipient is receiving an overseas pension.

| Year | New Zealand Superannuation | Veteran's Pension |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2010 | 60,667 | 248 |
| 2011 | 64,244 | 242 |
| 2012 | 68,247 | 240 |
| 2013 | 73,601 | 255 |
| 2014 | 79,946 | 281 |
| 2015 | 85,440 | 354 |
| 2016 | 91,019 | 363 |
| 2017 | 94,814 | 363 |
| 2018 | 97,658 | 355 |
| 2019 | 99,410 | 348 |

Please note that this does not include any retirement payments that are not administered by, or on behalf of, another government, as such payments do not impact entitlement to New Zealand Superannuation, and as such the Ministry has no record of such payments.

- *Over the past 10 years how many people have been prosecuted over false claims relating to Superannuation?*

Since 1 July 2012, the Ministry has pursued 20 prosecutions with a New Zealand Superannuation overpayment component. Of these, 19 were successful. No prosecutions have occurred for people with a Veteran's Pension overpayment component.

Prior to 1 July 2012, the Ministry did not centrally record prosecutions in this way. In order to provide this information for this period, Ministry staff would have to manually review individual client files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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. 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



Jason Dwen
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