



Dear [REDACTED]

On 11 November 2019, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *Information on the amount of sanctions imposed, the number and type of sanctions imposed since January 2017.*
2. *Information on the particular sanctions imposed and how many for each. For example how many s70A/s192 sanctions have been imposed since January 2017.*

For the sake of clarity, your questions are addressed in turn:

1. *Information on the amount of sanctions imposed, and type of sanctions imposed since January 2017.*

The information requested is publicly available under the documents heading at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/latest-quarterly-results/benefit-sanctions.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/latest-quarterly-results/benefit-sanctions.html).

The excel spreadsheet *Quarterly benefit fact sheets- sanction tables December 2019* provides publicly available data about sanctions. This excel spreadsheet is also attached for your reference.

This data includes a breakdown of sanctions by the first reason for the sanction imposed. It is important to note that this data does not include section 192 deductions as these are not sanctions. Statistics regarding section 192 deductions are included in part two of your request.

2. *Information on the particular sanctions imposed. For example how many s70A/s192 sanctions have been imposed since January 2017.*

From 26 November 2018, section 70A of the Social Security Act 1964 has been replaced by section 192 of the Social Security Act 2018. The section requires the Ministry to reduce the payment of a main benefit in respect of a dependent child where the recipient fails to identify the other parent of the child.

Section 193 of the Social Security Act 2018 sets out the criterion where a section 192 deduction is not applied. You can read more about this on the Work and Income website at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/core-policy/child-support/benefit-rate-reduction-for-carers.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/core-policy/child-support/benefit-rate-reduction-for-carers.html).

As deductions can be applied and then removed at any time, the Ministry does not report on the number "applied" over a period, rather how many are applied at a point in time. As at the end of June 2019, 11,590 caregivers had 15,071 deductions applied under section 192.

You are provided with two tables which provide the following information:

- Table One: The number of working age caregivers subject to the section 192 deduction as at 30 June, for the period 2016 to 2019.
- Table Two: The number of working age caregivers subject to the section 192 deduction as at 30 June, for the period 2016 to 2019, broken down by Work and Income region.

As part of the welfare overhaul, the Government has made a commitment to repeal Section 192 which will come into effect from 1 April 2020.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding sanctions and deductions, 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

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Bridget Saunders  
**Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**

**Table One: The number of working age caregivers subject to the section 192 deduction as at 30 June, for the period 2016 to 2019**

| As at 30 June | Number of Caregivers | Number of Deductions |
|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2016          | 14,350               | 18,026               |
| 2017          | 13,653               | 17,398               |
| 2018          | 12,508               | 16,118               |
| 2019          | 11,590               | 15,071               |

**Table Two: The number of working age caregivers subject to the section 192 deduction, as at 30 June for the period 2016 to 2019, broken down by Work and Income region.**

| Work and Income Region | As at 30 June        |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
|                        | 2016                 |                      | 2017                 |                      | 2018                 |                      | 2019                 |                      |
|                        | Number of Caregivers | Number of Deductions | Number of Caregivers | Number of Deductions | Number of Caregivers | Number of Deductions | Number of Caregivers | Number of Deductions |
| Northland              | 828                  | 1,045                | 856                  | 1,082                | 808                  | 1,017                | 675                  | 873                  |
| Auckland Metro         | 5,334                | 6,825                | 4,924                | 6,378                | 4,464                | 5,840                | 4,179                | 5,486                |
| Waikato                | 1,298                | 1,608                | 1,289                | 1,631                | 1,180                | 1,505                | 1,058                | 1,376                |
| Taranaki               | 672                  | 835                  | 640                  | 795                  | 616                  | 782                  | 549                  | 689                  |
| Bay of Plenty          | 1,464                | 1,820                | 1,264                | 1,589                | 1,126                | 1,426                | 1,086                | 1,393                |
| East Coast             | 1,111                | 1,359                | 1,065                | 1,361                | 931                  | 1,217                | 823                  | 1,066                |
| Central                | 722                  | 890                  | 655                  | 818                  | 643                  | 800                  | 578                  | 723                  |
| Wellington             | 730                  | 877                  | 705                  | 860                  | 652                  | 805                  | 598                  | 720                  |
| Nelson                 | 435                  | 548                  | 411                  | 524                  | 359                  | 482                  | 371                  | 515                  |
| Canterbury             | 1,054                | 1,306                | 1,079                | 1,389                | 1,018                | 1,315                | 1,004                | 1,307                |
| Southern               | 692                  | 903                  | 702                  | 903                  | 672                  | 888                  | 631                  | 882                  |
| Other                  | 10                   | 10                   | 63                   | 68                   | 39                   | 41                   | 38                   | 41                   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>14,350</b>        | <b>18,026</b>        | <b>13,653</b>        | <b>17,398</b>        | <b>12,508</b>        | <b>16,118</b>        | <b>11,590</b>        | <b>15,071</b>        |

**Notes on Table One and Table Two:**

- The tables include working age caregivers only (18 to 64 years).
- Please note that a caregiver may have more than one section 192 deduction in place at the same time relating to different children in their care.
- The 'Other' Work and Income region includes clients managed from non-regional Service Centres, for instance the Central Processing Unit.



## Benefit sanctions

December 2019

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| <b>Definitions</b>         |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Benefit sanctions          | A sanction is a penalty imposed on a person's benefit for failure to fulfil their obligations. The tables cover work obligations as these are the main reasons for benefit sanctions. Work obligations can include work preparation steps, attending arranged appointments and accepting offers of employment. The majority of people who have work obligations are those receiving Jobseeker Support and Sole Parent Support.  |
| Types of benefit sanctions | Sanctions affect people in a number of ways depending on their circumstances and the number of times they have had a sanction imposed over the last 12 months. Sole parents and couples with dependent children face a maximum 50 per cent reduction of their main benefit when sanctioned. For single people or couples with no dependent children, the first sanction is a maximum 50 per cent reduction of their main benefit; for a second failure they face a 100 percent suspension of their main benefit; a third sanction would result in the main benefit being cancelled.<br>A Grade 1 sanction means the person has failed their obligations for the first time in the last 12 months and has not recompiled within five working days. A Grade 2 sanction occurs if a person has failed their obligations for the second time in the last 12 months and has not recompiled within five working days. A Grade 3 sanction means a person has failed their obligations for the third time in the last 12 months or has not accepted an offer of suitable employment (job refusal) and has not recompiled within five working days. Most people recompile with their obligations before a sanction is imposed. |
| Types of data reported     | The tables contain two types of data: <i>flow</i> data and <i>point-in-time</i> data. Flow data is the sum of all sanction events that occur in the quarter (e.g. for the March quarter, it is the sum of all sanction events in January, February and March). Point-in-time data is the number of sanctions at that point in time (e.g. for March, it is the number of sanctions as at the end of March). Some data can only be reported at a point in time (e.g. duration of a sanction). The first three tabs contain flow data while the last tab contains point-in-time data.  |
| Gender                     | From 2 December 2019 updated forms and online applications now include three gender options for clients to choose from, Male, Female, and Gender Diverse. Due to low numbers, those in the Gender Diverse category have been included in the total, but are not shown separately.<br><br>The sum of Male and Female may not add to the total in some cases.   |

| <b>Explanatory notes</b> |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Working-age              | Working-age people are aged 18-64 years. This definition reflects the minimum age of eligibility for most main benefits and the age of qualification for New Zealand Superannuation.   |
| Dependent child          | A child (whether the person's own, a stepchild, adopted, a grandchild or a mokopuna) is considered dependent if they are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• primarily under the care and responsibility of the person receiving the benefit</li> <li>• living with that person as a member of their family</li> <li>• substantially reliant on that person for financial support.</li> </ul>  |
| Ethnicity protocols      | Ethnicity data is self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by an individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy. The Māori ethnicity has the highest priority in this hierarchy, followed by Pacific peoples. NZ European has the lowest priority. This is to ensure that smaller and politically significant ethnic groups do not get overwhelmed by the larger ethnic groups. A single ethnicity is assigned to an individual based on this hierarchy. Ethnic groups do not currently align with Statistics New Zealand ethnicity groupings. |
| Suppression              | In certain circumstances, low numbers may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Due to these privacy concerns, numbers for some categories of individuals have been suppressed or aggregated. Secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required. Suppressed numbers have been replaced by an 'S'.   |
| Work and Income Regions  | Work and Income has 11 geographical regions: Northland; Auckland; Waikato; Bay of Plenty; East Coast; Taranaki, (Taranaki, King Country and Whanganui); Central; Wellington; Nelson, (Nelson, Marlborough and West Coast); Canterbury; and Southern. "Other region" refers to people managed by national units, for example, contact centres and processing centres.   |

| <b>Other notes</b>  |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentages may not add up to 100 percent due to rounding.</li> <li>• The time series for benefit sanctions data begins from March 2014 due to changes in reporting methods.</li> <li>• Sanctions are for working-age main beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Other reasons for sanctions include the person obstructing the job interview process or post-interview process.</li> <li>• People include partners of beneficiaries.</li> <li>• Duration on a graduated sanction is point-in-time data. It shows the duration of a sanction at that point in time; it does not show the overall duration of the sanction.</li> <li>• A small number of non-work tested people may be included in the point-in-time tables because they had a sanction on a previous benefit but have since transferred to a benefit which is not work-tested.</li> <li>• Total numbers of sanctions include sanctions of working-aged recipients of Supported Living Payment, Emergency Benefit and Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment. Sanctions of recipients of these benefits are not reported separately due to small numbers.</li> <li>• The first reason for sanction categories have been changed in the Jun-17 quarter. The new reason categories are 'people who failed to attend appointments' (for example, failed to attend or failed to complete an arranged appointment); 'people who failed to prepare for work' (for example, failed to actively participate in activity or failed to undertake activity as directed); 'people who failed to participate in work' (for example, failed to comply with job search requirement step or failed to accept paid employment); and 'other reasons' (for example, failed to meet drug testing obligations, failed to contact Work and Income or failed to engage with Work and Income).</li> </ul> |  |

## Sanctions imposed by benefit and recipient characteristics - latest quarter

Dec-19

| Recipient characteristic | Jobseeker Support |              | Sole Parent Support |              | Total Main Benefits |              |
|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
|                          | Number            | %            | Number              | %            | Number              | %            |
| <b>Gender</b>            |                   |              |                     |              |                     |              |
| Male                     | 7,182             | 65.8         | 110                 | 13.0         | 7,302               | 61.6         |
| Female                   | 3,735             | 34.2         | 733                 | 87.0         | 4,552               | 38.4         |
| Total                    | 10,917            | 100.0        | 843                 | 100.0        | 11,854              | 100.0        |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>         |                   |              |                     |              |                     |              |
| NZ European              | 3,635             | 33.3         | 301                 | 35.7         | 3,958               | 33.4         |
| Māori                    | 4,862             | 44.5         | 394                 | 46.7         | 5,302               | 44.7         |
| Pacific peoples          | 1,129             | 10.3         | 69                  | 8.2          | 1,206               | 10.2         |
| All other ethnicities    | 628               | 5.8          | 45                  | 5.3          | 675                 | 5.7          |
| Unspecified              | 663               | 6.1          | 34                  | 4.0          | 713                 | 6.0          |
| <b>Age Group</b>         |                   |              |                     |              |                     |              |
| 18-24 years              | 5,362             | 49.1         | 208                 | 24.7         | 5,661               | 47.8         |
| 25-39 years              | 4,050             | 37.1         | 504                 | 59.8         | 4,556               | 38.4         |
| 40-54 years              | 1,354             | 12.4         | S                   | S            | 1,485               | 12.5         |
| 55-64 years              | 151               | 1.4          | S                   | S            | 152                 | 1.3          |
| <b>Recipient with</b>    |                   |              |                     |              |                     |              |
| Dependent child(ren)     | 1,056             | 9.7          | S                   | S            | 1,979               | 16.7         |
| No dependent child(ren)  | 9,861             | 90.3         | S                   | S            | 9,875               | 83.3         |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>10,917</b>     | <b>100.0</b> | <b>843</b>          | <b>100.0</b> | <b>11,854</b>       | <b>100.0</b> |

**Sanctions imposed by  
Work and Income Region -  
last five years**

| Work and Income Region | Dec-14        | Mar-15        | Jun-15        | Sep-15        | Dec-15        | Mar-16        | Jun-16        | Sep-16        | Dec-16        | Mar-17        | Jun-17        | Sep-17        | Dec-17        | Mar-18        | Jun-18        | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19        | Jun-19        | Sep-19        | Dec-19        |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Auckland               | 5,402         | 5,081         | 6,143         | 5,874         | 5,073         | 2,996         | 4,011         | 3,874         | 3,215         | 4,327         | 4,530         | 4,526         | 4,565         | 4,053         | 3,339         | 3,065        | 2,243        | 2,252         | 2,168         | 2,404         | 2,404         |
| Bay of Plenty          | 2,145         | 2,085         | 2,304         | 2,531         | 2,529         | 1,933         | 1,985         | 2,100         | 1,712         | 1,956         | 1,758         | 1,700         | 2,135         | 2,302         | 2,056         | 1,161        | 1,253        | 1,102         | 1,739         | 1,070         | 1,510         |
| Canterbury             | 881           | 633           | 655           | 673           | 724           | 638           | 921           | 805           | 587           | 990           | 816           | 686           | 628           | 598           | 482           | 381          | 467          | 409           | 544           | 541           | 616           |
| Central                | 949           | 827           | 1,097         | 1,167         | 940           | 690           | 934           | 990           | 602           | 947           | 949           | 1,028         | 1,011         | 761           | 493           | 402          | 478          | 564           | 765           | 778           | 1,006         |
| East Coast             | 1,180         | 1,082         | 1,144         | 908           | 1,212         | 787           | 772           | 648           | 880           | 1,251         | 797           | 817           | 1,274         | 1,380         | 731           | 544          | 380          | 1,708         | 1,067         | 1,034         | 1,031         |
| Nelson                 | 527           | 509           | 568           | 543           | 546           | 442           | 447           | 525           | 415           | 614           | 565           | 440           | 528           | 511           | 323           | 182          | 281          | 337           | 284           | 397           | 463           |
| Northland              | 1,202         | 1,062         | 1,199         | 1,000         | 1,077         | 744           | 818           | 905           | 854           | 1,003         | 1,207         | 852           | 761           | 987           | 1,033         | 793          | 630          | 794           | 860           | 610           | 951           |
| Southern               | 594           | 512           | 800           | 662           | 598           | 433           | 535           | 501           | 423           | 560           | 436           | 533           | 426           | 465           | 398           | 386          | 310          | 343           | 423           | 377           | 415           |
| Taranaki               | 562           | 453           | 591           | 606           | 445           | 437           | 659           | 712           | 801           | 1,157         | 1,060         | 1,082         | 883           | 975           | 860           | 644          | 707          | 626           | 616           | 557           | 847           |
| Waikato                | 1,991         | 1,634         | 2,249         | 1,947         | 1,888         | 1,141         | 2,030         | 1,951         | 1,206         | 1,500         | 2,266         | 1,903         | 1,739         | 1,918         | 1,591         | 1,252        | 1,161        | 1,365         | 1,930         | 2,009         | 1,817         |
| Wellington             | 1,631         | 1,529         | 1,888         | 1,735         | 1,321         | 882           | 1,237         | 1,151         | 615           | 1,037         | 1,094         | 1,002         | 692           | 606           | 772           | 536          | 469          | 587           | 912           | 560           | 692           |
| Other                  | 117           | 92            | 87            | 93            | 97            | 41            | 89            | 75            | 45            | 123           | 141           | 155           | 136           | 149           | 136           | 158          | 157          | 103           | 92            | 133           | 102           |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>17,181</b> | <b>15,499</b> | <b>18,725</b> | <b>17,739</b> | <b>16,450</b> | <b>11,164</b> | <b>14,438</b> | <b>14,237</b> | <b>11,355</b> | <b>15,465</b> | <b>15,619</b> | <b>14,724</b> | <b>14,778</b> | <b>14,705</b> | <b>12,214</b> | <b>9,504</b> | <b>8,536</b> | <b>10,190</b> | <b>11,400</b> | <b>10,470</b> | <b>11,854</b> |

**Sanctions imposed by benefit type - last five years**

| Benefit                    | Dec-14        | Mar-15        | Jun-15        | Sep-15        | Dec-15        | Mar-16        | Jun-16        | Sep-16        | Dec-16        | Mar-17        | Jun-17        | Sep-17        | Dec-17        | Mar-18        | Jun-18        | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19        | Jun-19        | Sep-19        | Dec-19        |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Jobseeker Support          | 13,228        | 12,197        | 13,956        | 13,246        | 12,419        | 8,807         | 10,772        | 10,435        | 8,555         | 11,789        | 12,076        | 11,522        | 11,889        | 12,032        | 10,002        | 8,214        | 7,334        | 8,993         | 10,210        | 9,464         | 10,917        |
| Sole Parent Support        | 3,861         | 3,229         | 4,686         | 4,372         | 3,919         | 2,317         | 3,579         | 3,723         | 2,757         | 3,558         | 3,414         | 3,068         | 2,756         | 2,537         | 2,083         | 1,150        | 1,060        | 1,114         | 1,118         | 899           | 843           |
| <b>Total Main Benefits</b> | <b>17,181</b> | <b>15,499</b> | <b>18,725</b> | <b>17,739</b> | <b>16,450</b> | <b>11,164</b> | <b>14,438</b> | <b>14,237</b> | <b>11,355</b> | <b>15,465</b> | <b>15,619</b> | <b>14,724</b> | <b>14,778</b> | <b>14,705</b> | <b>12,214</b> | <b>9,504</b> | <b>8,536</b> | <b>10,190</b> | <b>11,400</b> | <b>10,470</b> | <b>11,854</b> |

**Sanctions imposed by dependent children - All main benefits - last five years**

| Recipient with          | Dec-14        | Mar-15        | Jun-15        | Sep-15        | Dec-15        | Mar-16        | Jun-16        | Sep-16        | Dec-16        | Mar-17        | Jun-17        | Sep-17        | Dec-17        | Mar-18        | Jun-18        | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19        | Jun-19        | Sep-19        | Dec-19        |
|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Dependent child(ren)    | 5,633         | 4,804         | 6,579         | 6,120         | 5,582         | 3,379         | 4,920         | 5,100         | 3,896         | 5,266         | 5,021         | 4,670         | 4,364         | 4,134         | 3,371         | 2,131        | 1,902        | 2,182         | 2,347         | 2,143         | 1,979         |
| No dependent child(ren) | 11,548        | 10,695        | 12,146        | 11,619        | 10,868        | 7,785         | 9,518         | 9,137         | 7,459         | 10,199        | 10,598        | 10,054        | 10,414        | 10,571        | 8,843         | 7,373        | 6,634        | 8,008         | 9,053         | 8,327         | 9,875         |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>17,181</b> | <b>15,499</b> | <b>18,725</b> | <b>17,739</b> | <b>16,450</b> | <b>11,164</b> | <b>14,438</b> | <b>14,237</b> | <b>11,355</b> | <b>15,465</b> | <b>15,619</b> | <b>14,724</b> | <b>14,778</b> | <b>14,705</b> | <b>12,214</b> | <b>9,504</b> | <b>8,536</b> | <b>10,190</b> | <b>11,400</b> | <b>10,470</b> | <b>11,854</b> |

**First reason for sanction imposed - All main benefits - last five years**

| First sanction reason                          | Dec-14        | Mar-15        | Jun-15        | Sep-15        | Dec-15        | Mar-16        | Jun-16        | Sep-16        | Dec-16        | Mar-17        | Jun-17        | Sep-17        | Dec-17        | Mar-18        | Jun-18        | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19        | Jun-19        | Sep-19        | Dec-19        |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Recipients who failed to attend appointment(s) | 11,560        | 10,404        | 12,475        | 11,438        | 10,592        | 7,057         | 9,878         | 9,572         | 7,590         | 10,554        | 9,942         | 9,350         | 9,528         | 9,747         | 7,954         | 5,914        | 5,348        | 6,887         | 7,170         | 7,095         | 8,211         |
| Recipients who failed to prepare for work      | 3,832         | 3,007         | 4,017         | 4,068         | 3,994         | 2,634         | 2,859         | 2,931         | 2,421         | 3,038         | 3,750         | 3,512         | 3,411         | 3,358         | 2,962         | 2,405        | 2,060        | 2,165         | 2,615         | 2,173         | 2,361         |
| Recipients who failed to participate in work   | 1,757         | 2,024         | 2,127         | 2,115         | 1,775         | 1,414         | 1,622         | 1,680         | 1,287         | 1,790         | 1,800         | 1,757         | 1,719         | 1,487         | 1,217         | 1,112        | 1,033        | 1,081         | 1,568         | 1,114         | 1,200         |
| Other reasons                                  | 92            | 64            | 106           | 118           | 89            | 59            | 79            | 54            | 57            | 83            | 127           | 105           | 120           | 113           | 81            | 73           | 95           | 57            | 47            | 88            | 62            |
| <b>Total</b>                                   | <b>17,181</b> | <b>15,499</b> | <b>18,725</b> | <b>17,739</b> | <b>16,450</b> | <b>11,164</b> | <b>14,438</b> | <b>14,237</b> | <b>11,355</b> | <b>15,465</b> | <b>15,619</b> | <b>14,724</b> | <b>14,778</b> | <b>14,705</b> | <b>12,214</b> | <b>9,504</b> | <b>8,536</b> | <b>10,190</b> | <b>11,400</b> | <b>10,470</b> | <b>11,854</b> |

**Sanctions imposed by sanction type - All main benefits - last five years**

| Sanction type       | Dec-14        | Mar-15        | Jun-15        | Sep-15        | Dec-15        | Mar-16        | Jun-16        | Sep-16        | Dec-16        | Mar-17        | Jun-17        | Sep-17        | Dec-17        | Mar-18        | Jun-18        | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19        | Jun-19        | Sep-19        | Dec-19        |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Graduated           | 12,815        | 11,678        | 14,698        | 13,719        | 12,969        | 8,758         | 11,728        | 11,782        | 9,451         | 13,174        | 12,865        | 12,025        | 12,049        | 11,857        | 9,864         | 7,571        | 6,963        | 8,516         | 9,369         | 8,462         | 9,637         |
| Suspended/Cancelled | 4,366         | 3,821         | 4,027         | 4,020         | 3,481         | 2,406         | 2,710         | 2,455         | 1,904         | 2,291         | 2,754         | 2,699         | 2,729         | 2,848         | 2,350         | 1,933        | 1,573        | 1,674         | 2,031         | 2,008         | 2,217         |
| <b>Total</b>        | <b>17,181</b> | <b>15,499</b> | <b>18,725</b> | <b>17,739</b> | <b>16,450</b> | <b>11,164</b> | <b>14,438</b> | <b>14,237</b> | <b>11,355</b> | <b>15,465</b> | <b>15,619</b> | <b>14,724</b> | <b>14,778</b> | <b>14,705</b> | <b>12,214</b> | <b>9,504</b> | <b>8,536</b> | <b>10,190</b> | <b>11,400</b> | <b>10,470</b> | <b>11,854</b> |



**Graduated sanctions enforced  
by benefit type (point-in-time) -  
last five years**

| Benefit                    | Dec-14       | Mar-15       | Jun-15       | Sep-15       | Dec-15       | Mar-16       | Jun-16       | Sep-16       | Dec-16       | Mar-17       | Jun-17       | Sep-17       | Dec-17       | Mar-18       | Jun-18       | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19       | Jun-19       | Sep-19       | Dec-19       |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Jobseeker Support          | 1,099        | 1,728        | 1,510        | 1,404        | 1,235        | 839          | 1,496        | 1,391        | 759          | 1,817        | 1,602        | 1,497        | 1,416        | 1,686        | 1,211        | 1,177        | 984          | 1,581        | 1,494        | 1,319        | 1,268        |
| Sole Parent Support        | 396          | 645          | 581          | 603          | 448          | 377          | 677          | 674          | 336          | 774          | 506          | 508          | 365          | 476          | 359          | 216          | 193          | 271          | 211          | 189          | 121          |
| <b>Total Main Benefits</b> | <b>1,524</b> | <b>2,400</b> | <b>2,223</b> | <b>2,049</b> | <b>1,706</b> | <b>1,235</b> | <b>2,212</b> | <b>2,095</b> | <b>1,105</b> | <b>2,627</b> | <b>2,160</b> | <b>2,037</b> | <b>1,806</b> | <b>2,204</b> | <b>1,601</b> | <b>1,437</b> | <b>1,232</b> | <b>1,887</b> | <b>1,732</b> | <b>1,554</b> | <b>1,413</b> |

**Graduated sanctions enforced  
by duration and dependent  
children (point-in-time) - All  
main benefits - last five years**

| Duration of graduated sanction               | Dec-14       | Mar-15       | Jun-15       | Sep-15       | Dec-15       | Mar-16       | Jun-16       | Sep-16       | Dec-16       | Mar-17       | Jun-17       | Sep-17       | Dec-17       | Mar-18       | Jun-18       | Sep-18       | Dec-18       | Mar-19       | Jun-19       | Sep-19       | Dec-19       |
|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>Recipients with dependent children</b>    |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Up to 4 weeks                                | 388          | 754          | 767          | 677          | 429          | 268          | 717          | 715          | 245          | 949          | 627          | 592          | 418          | 618          | 400          | 251          | 222          | 383          | 314          | 301          | 200          |
| 4 to 8 weeks                                 | 168          | 141          | 181          | 149          | 153          | 205          | 168          | 114          | 126          | 155          | 113          | 115          | 110          | 111          | 101          | 64           | 61           | 96           | 80           | 5            | 79           |
| Over 8 weeks                                 | 93           | 66           | 107          | 100          | 132          | 141          | 106          | 116          | 113          | 65           | 95           | 103          | 98           | 77           | 137          | 118          | 99           | 68           | 104          | 110          | 5            |
| <b>Recipients without dependent children</b> |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |
| Up to 4 weeks                                | 786          | 1,352        | 1,160        | 1,119        | 890          | 584          | 1,213        | 1,139        | 542          | 1,454        | 1,317        | 1,222        | 1,132        | 1,389        | 953          | 998          | 758          | 1,336        | 1,231        | 1,077        | 977          |
| 4 to 8 weeks                                 | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | 29           | S            | S            | 71           | S            | S            | S            | 41           | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | 0            | 88           |
| Over 8 weeks                                 | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | 8            | S            | S            | 8            | S            | S            | S            | 7            | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            | S            |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>1,524</b> | <b>2,400</b> | <b>2,223</b> | <b>2,049</b> | <b>1,706</b> | <b>1,235</b> | <b>2,212</b> | <b>2,095</b> | <b>1,105</b> | <b>2,627</b> | <b>2,160</b> | <b>2,037</b> | <b>1,806</b> | <b>2,204</b> | <b>1,601</b> | <b>1,437</b> | <b>1,232</b> | <b>1,887</b> | <b>1,732</b> | <b>1,554</b> | <b>1,413</b> |

**Percentage of work-tested  
benefit recipients with  
graduated sanctions (point-in-  
time) - last five years**

|   | Dec-14  | Mar-15  | Jun-15  | Sep-15  | Dec-15  | Mar-16  | Jun-16  | Sep-16  | Dec-16  | Mar-17  | Jun-17  | Sep-17  | Dec-17  | Mar-18  | Jun-18  | Sep-18  | Dec-18  | Mar-19  | Jun-19  | Sep-19  | Dec-19  |
|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total number of work-tested benefit recipients with graduated sanctions | 1,524   | 2,400   | 2,223   | 2,049   | 1,706   | 1,235   | 2,212   | 2,095   | 1,105   | 2,627   | 2,160   | 2,037   | 1,806   | 2,204   | 1,601   | 1,437   | 1,232   | 1,887   | 1,732   | 1,554   | 1,413   |
| Total number of benefit recipients with work obligations                | 215,128 | 202,837 | 203,240 | 205,634 | 208,533 | 199,239 | 201,220 | 205,472 | 208,564 | 198,972 | 196,942 | 197,951 | 201,874 | 193,987 | 197,925 | 205,922 | 212,866 | 208,071 | 213,407 | 221,001 | 228,079 |
| Percentage of work-tested benefit recipients with graduated sanctions   | 0.7%    | 1.2%    | 1.1%    | 1.0%    | 0.8%    | 0.6%    | 1.1%    | 1.0%    | 0.5%    | 1.3%    | 1.1%    | 1.0%    | 0.9%    | 1.1%    | 0.8%    | 0.7%    | 0.6%    | 0.9%    | 0.8%    | 0.7%    | 0.6%    |