



22 JUL 2020

Tēnā koe

On 24 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A list of the Kiwi companies that have accessed the most money from the wage subsidy scheme. Basically, the company name, how many employees, and the total amount paid for the top 20 claimants.*

The Wage Subsidy scheme has enabled rapid support for thousands of New Zealand businesses during this time of uncertainty and has ensured that employees were able to remain connected with their employers during the COVID-19 lockdown. The scheme was set up on a high-trust model, in order to quickly deliver funds to support workers, families and businesses.

As part of the Wage Subsidy application process, businesses were required to sign a declaration that they had met the scheme's eligibility criteria. The declaration is extensive and includes agreement that the details in the application may be verified with other agencies, obligations in terms of the subsidy, and consequences of non-compliance.

Details of Wage Subsidy recipients have been published to an online search tool which is located at the following link: [services.workandincome.govt.nz/eps](https://services.workandincome.govt.nz/eps)

The Ministry developed the online COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Employer Search tool (search tool) with close involvement from the Privacy Commissioner to ensure compliance with the Privacy Act 1993. The group the Ministry was particularly concerned about, from a privacy perspective, were sole traders, as the publication of their information on a public register is also the publication of personal information and would reveal that they are personally receiving financial support. The Ministry is conscious that for some, there is stigma around receiving government support.

The Ministry has limited the search tool to employers with three or more employees. Sole traders with two or less employees are excluded from the searchable database to further protect the privacy of individuals who had applied.

Please see Table One overleaf that addresses your request.

**Table One: List of the 20 businesses in New Zealand that received the largest net amount of Wage Subsidy payments up to 3 July 2020.**

<b>Business name</b>	<b>Number of employees</b>	<b>Net amount paid</b>
Air New Zealand Limited	10,292	\$106,901,489.60
Fletcher Building Holdings Limited	9,694	\$67,683,717.60
The Warehouse Limited	8,596	\$51,988,574.40
Downer New Zealand Limited	5,479	\$38,232,218.40
Fulton Hogan Limited	4,883	\$34,254,796.80
Alliance Group Limited	4,913	\$33,109,857.15
New Zealand Post Limited	4,384	\$29,714,222.40
Bunnings Limited	4,277	\$27,202,044.00
Kiwirail Holdings Limited	3,763	\$26,387,304.00
Spotless Facility Services (NZ) Limited	4,450	\$25,215,057.60
Best Start Educare Limited	3,889	\$24,715,987.40
AWF Limited	2,682	\$24,020,731.80
The Farmers' Trading Company Limited	3,597	\$23,262,307.20
Restaurant Brands Limited	3,724	\$22,180,005.60
Skycity Management Limited	3,272	\$21,689,722.10
OCS Limited	4,126	\$20,979,064.80
Compass Group New Zealand Limited	2,405	\$15,265,780.80
Bidfood Limited	2,104	\$14,314,905.60
Harvey Norman Stores (NZ) Pty Limited	1,850	\$12,700,622.40
Adecco Personnel Limited	1,808	\$12,219,996.00

**Notes:**

- "Wage Subsidy" includes the original Wage Subsidy and the Wage Subsidy Extension.
- Net amount paid is the total amount of wage subsidy paid to a company less any amount returned to the Ministry.
- Number of employees is the distinct number of employees across all claims for both the original Wage Subsidy and the Wage Subsidy Extension.
- The information is accurate up to 3 July 2020, changes may have been made since this date. The most up to date information can be found on our online search tool.

Each of the employers listed above are included in the online search tool. Please note that the search tool holds the most up to date information on Wage Subsidy payments, as well as details of payment by type (Wage Subsidy or Wage Subsidy Extension).

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the top 20 businesses in New Zealand that received the largest net amount of Wage Subsidy payments, 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.

Nāku noa, Nā



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