



11 NOV 2020

On 16 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The continuous duration of people in receipt of Jobseeker Support, Jobseeker Support/Health Condition, Injury and Disability (JS-HCID) and Supported Living Payment, broken down by region and years in receipt of benefit (one year or less, more than one year and less than two years, more than two years and less than three years, etc. until everyone is covered on a yearly basis), as at September 2020.*

Please find the information requested in the enclosed Excel spreadsheet. The spreadsheet contains the following tables:

- **Table 1:** Current working age clients in receipt of Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, and related benefits, broken down by region and years in receipt of benefit, as at 30 September 2020
- **Table 2:** Current working age clients in receipt of Jobseeker Support – Health Condition, Injury and Disability, and related benefits, broken down by region and years in receipt of benefit, as at 30 September 2020
- **Table 3:** Current working age clients in receipt of Supported Living Payment and related benefits, broken down by region and years in receipt of benefit, as at 30 September 2020

Please note, a significant number of people are in long-term receipt of Supported Living Payment. This is because this payment supports people who have, or are caring for someone with, a permanent and severe health condition, injury or disability. Some health conditions, injuries or disabilities remain permanently, which is why people still receive this payment after an extended period of time.

Similarly, a significant number of JS-HCID recipients have received the benefit for an extended period. These clients may not be currently working or may be working at a reduced level because of an ongoing health condition, injury or a disability.

Please also take note of the following information regarding the tables:

- The tables include working age clients only (18 to 64 years).
- Continuous duration is how long the current recipients of a benefit (or benefit group) have been continuously receiving a benefit in the wider benefit system, including time in receipt of any other benefit except Unsupported Child's Benefit, Orphan's Benefit, New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension and non-beneficiary assistance.
- In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.
- Jobseeker Support Related/Work Ready includes Jobseeker Support Work Ready Hardship and Jobseeker Support Work Ready Training.
- Jobseeker Support/Health Condition, Injury and Disability (JS HCID) includes JS HCID Hardship.
- Supported Living Payment Related includes Supported Living Payment Overseas.
- The 'Other' region includes clients managed from non-regional service centres such as Centralised Services and National Office.

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
- 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. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 duration of people in receipt of main benefits, 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 be 'Bridget Saunders', written in a cursive style.

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