



23 NOV 2020

On 23 October 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc (RNZSPCA):

- *If any COVID related MSD payment has been made to this charity or not, and if so, how much/what types of payment please?*

I can confirm that the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc successfully applied for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy on 4 April 2020 and received \$3,399,979.20 for the period 4 April 2020 to 26 June 2020. This first application was for 505 employees. Then, on 10 April 2020, the RNZSPCA applied for the Wage Subsidy on behalf of an additional 99 employees and received \$571,428 for these staff for the period 10 April 2020 to 2 July 2020.

Since then, the RNZSPCA has repaid \$103.20, which they did based on subsequent advice from the Ministry regarding which of their employees should and should not have been included in their Wage Subsidy applications.

Information about the RNZSPCA's COVID-19 Wage Subsidy application is publicly available via the Ministry's COVID-19 Employer Search Tool (the search tool), which can be found here: www.services.workandincome.govt.nz/eps/search.

Please note, to return results for the RNZSPCA you will need to use the name 'The Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Anima Ls Inc', as a typographical error occurred when uploading the RNZSPCA's details into the search tool's database. The team responsible for uploading businesses into the search tool have been made aware of this error.

The RNZSPCA has not received any additional COVID-19 related funding from the Ministry as far as our records show.

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 about the the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Inc's Wage Subsidy applications 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bridget Saunders', written in a cursive style.

Bridget Saunders

Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery