



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

07 OCT 2020

Dear

On 9 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *The total number of COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP) applications lodged from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020 broken down into: ethnicity, gender and MSD region*
2. *How many people were declined a CIRP payment and subsequently went onto a benefit?*

The CIRP has been available since 8 June 2020 and provides temporary financial support to clients who have lost employment due to the impacts of COVID-19. Clients can receive the payment for a maximum of 12 weeks. Eligibility to the CIRP is largely based on the individual's circumstances.

Please find enclosed in Appendix One the following tables:

- Table One: The number of CIRP applications from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020, broken down by MSD region
- Table Two: The number of CIRP applications from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020, broken down by gender
- Table Three: The number of CIRP applications from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020, broken down by ethnicity
- Table Four: The number of CIRP applications declined from 8 June to 28 August 2020 and the number of people that were subsequently granted a main benefit

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.

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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 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 regarding CIRP statistics, 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



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

Appendix One

Table One: The number of CIRP applications from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020, broken down by MSD region

MSD Region	Applications
Auckland Metro	14,292
Bay of Plenty	2,371
Canterbury	4,495
Central	1,110
East Coast	886
Nelson	1,223
Northland	1,050
Southern	2,917
Taranaki	964
Waikato	1,836
Wellington	2,227
Other	4,392
Total	37,763

Notes:

- This is a count of applications, not clients.
- 'Other region' refers to people managed by national units, for example, contact centres and processing centres.

Table Two: The number of CIRP applications from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020, broken down by gender

Gender	Applications
Male	20,286
Female	17,425
Gender Diverse	52
Total	37,763

Notes:

- This is a count of applications, not clients.

Table Three: The number of CIRP applications from 8 June 2020 to 28 August 2020, broken down by ethnicity

Ethnicity	Applications
Māori	6,513
Pacific Peoples	2,758
NZ European	15,479
Other	8,578
Unspecified	4,435
Total	37,763

Notes:

- This is a count of applications, not clients.
- The ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry. The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct. While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).

Table Four: The number of CIRP applications declined from 8 June to 28 August 2020 and the number of people that were subsequently granted a main benefit

Declines	Number of people whose CIRP application was declined that were subsequently granted a main benefit
5,423	466

Notes:

- This is a count of applications, not clients.
- Main benefits for those of working age include: Jobseeker Support (JS), Sole Parent Support (SPS), Supported Living Payment (SLP), Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment (YP/YPP), Emergency Benefit (EB), Emergency Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Jobseeker Support Student Hardship (JSSH), Widow's Benefit Overseas (WBO), and Sole Parent Support Overseas (SPSO).
- The category called 'declined' in the Ministry's administrative systems includes people who apply for the CIRP but find they would be better off on a benefit. As a result, their application for CIRP is then withdrawn, which shows up in the Ministry's systems as a 'decline', as the application is cancelled.