



13 APR 2021

Tēnā koe

On 22 March 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Any documentation that defines the maximum available limit of Temporary Additional Support payments through Work and Income New Zealand.*
- *If these are differentiated by area, by benefit type (eg., Supported Living Payment, Jobseeker Allowance, etc.), or by relationship status or age, please provide any documentation related to this.*

Temporary Additional Support (TAS) is non-taxable extra help paid for a maximum of 13 weeks. It is paid as a last resort to help clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their chargeable income and other resources.

A client does not have to be getting a main benefit to qualify for TAS.

In regard to the maximum available limit of TAS, the amount payable is the lesser of the deficiency of income or upper limit (maximum).

For more information about TAS, please see the following links:

- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/calculating-the-rate-of-temporary-additional-suppo-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/calculating-the-rate-of-payment-01.html>

Deficiency refers to the amount that the client's standard costs exceed their disposable income. To qualify for TAS, a client must have:

- standard costs that exceeds their disposable income, and
- have a deficiency of \$1 or more.

More information regarding deficiency can be found on Work and Income website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/deficiency-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/deficiency-01.html)

The upper limit is the maximum amount that can be paid for TAS and depends on the benefit a client receives and their family circumstances. If the client doesn't receive a main benefit, the upper limit is based on the Jobseeker Support rate that best matches their circumstances. The maximum amount of TAS is different for the following clients:

- those with excess disability costs, or
- certain refugees, protected persons or residence applicants.

More information regarding the upper limit can be found here:

- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/upper-limit-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/disability-exception-amount-01.html>

The Ministry publishes a large amount of information regarding TAS, including the definition of the maximum available limit, on the Work and income website. No specific internal documentation exists that does not already address the Ministry's published content on TAS, which also includes links to the relevant legislation, the Social Security Act 2018. As such, your request is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, on the basis that the information is already publicly available.

You may also be interested in the following webpages on TAS, found on the Work and Income website:

- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/excess-disability-costs-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/calculating-the-rate-for-certain-refugees-protected-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/upper-limit-for-certain-refugees-protected-persons-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/extra-help-information/temporary-additional-support-tables/accommodation-supplement-maximum-rates-current.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/standard-costs-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/disposable-income-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/allowable-costs-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/allowable-cost-limits-01.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/chargeable-income-01.html>



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, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

PP 

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