



9 AUG 2021

Tēnā koe

On 7 July 2021, you emailed Inland Revenue requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Over the past 10 years (most up to date available data), how many people receiving Superannuation have had an income of more than \$30,000? (broken down into year group, regional location and ethnicity)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people receiving Superannuation have had an income of more than \$50,000? (broken down into year group, regional location and ethnicity)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people receiving Superannuation have had an income of more than \$100,000? (broken down into year group, regional location and ethnicity)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people receiving Superannuation have had an income of more than \$150,000? (broken down into year group, regional location and ethnicity)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people receiving Superannuation have had an income of more than \$200,000? (broken down into year group, regional location and ethnicity)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people receiving Superannuation have had an income of more than \$300,000? (broken down into year group, regional location and ethnicity)*
- *What was the total cost of Superannuation every year for the past 10 years? (broken down into year group)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people declined to receive Superannuation? (broken down into year group)*
- *Over the past 10 years how many people have received additional retirement payments from overseas? (broken down into year group)*
- *Over the past 10 years how many people have been prosecuted over false claims relating to Superannuation?*

On 16 July 2021, questions 7 to 10 of your request were transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry). For clarity, these were the questions that were transferred to the Ministry:

- *What was the total cost of Superannuation every year for the past 10 years? (broken down into year group)*
- *Over the past 10 years, how many people declined to receive Superannuation? (broken down into year group)*
- *Over the past 10 years how many people have received additional retirement payments from overseas? (broken down into year group)*
- *Over the past 10 years how many people have been prosecuted over false claims relating to Superannuation?*

The Ministry anticipates that you will hear from Inland Revenue regarding your other questions soon, if you have not received a response already.

For the sake of clarity, your questions will be answered in order.

- *What was the total cost of Superannuation every year for the past 10 years? (broken down into year group)*

Please find **Table One** below, which shows the total cost of Superannuation every year for the last 10 years, broken down by financial year groups.

<b>Financial year ending</b>	<b>Appropriation</b>
June 2011	\$8,830,246,000
June 2012	\$9,583,511,000
June 2013	\$10,234,977,000
June 2014	\$10,913,103,000
June 2015	\$11,591,026,000
June 2016	\$12,266,832,000
June 2017	\$13,043,292,000
June 2018	\$13,698,735,000
June 2019	\$14,562,259,000
June 2020	\$15,521,475,000
June 2021	\$16,554,042,000

Please note that the figure for 2021 is a budgeted figure, as our final figures have not been submitted to Treasury yet.

- *Over the past 10 years, how many people declined to receive Superannuation? (broken down into year group)*

No central record exists of people who decline to receive a benefit, including New Zealand Superannuation. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as it is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe that it is held by any other organisation.

- *Over the past 10 years how many people have received additional retirement payments from overseas? (broken down into year group)*

Under section 173 of the Social Security Act 2018, a person applying for any New Zealand benefit, including New Zealand Superannuation, must take reasonable steps to obtain any overseas pension to which they may be entitled. Receipt of a pension which is administered by, or on behalf of, another government may impact the rate at which New Zealand Superannuation is paid.

As such, the Ministry holds information regarding the number of overseas pensions received by people who are, or would otherwise be, receiving New Zealand Superannuation or the Veteran's Pension. Please find **Table Two** below, which shows the number of clients on New Zealand Superannuation receiving an additional overseas pension, broken down by year.

<b>As at end of year</b>	<b>New Zealand Superannuation</b>	<b>Veteran's Pension</b>
December 2011	61,737	234
December 2012	65,652	234
December 2013	70,917	249
December 2014	77,175	273
December 2015	82,464	345
December 2016	88,014	354
December 2017	91,638	351
December 2018	94,581	345
December 2019	96,318	342
December 2020	97,119	345

**Notes:**

- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Please note that since your previous request on this topic, the Ministry has made changes to its data collection methods to further optimise the speed and accuracy of data collection. As such, you may notice discrepancies between the data provided in this response and the data you were provided with last year.

- *Over the past 10 years how many people have been prosecuted over false claims relating to Superannuation?*

Since 1 July 2012, the Ministry has pursued 24 prosecutions with a New Zealand Superannuation overpayment component. Of these, 23 were successful. No prosecutions have occurred for people with a Veteran's Pension overpayment component. Please note that the number of prosecutions does not include those closed because of factors outside the Ministry's control. Further, investigations or prosecutions where an overpayment was not created are also not included, as this overpayment must be created in order to verify that New Zealand Superannuation was involved. Please also note that the prosecutions listed do not include cases of internal fraud.

Prior to 1 July 2012, the Ministry did not centrally record prosecutions in this way. In order to provide this information for this period, Ministry staff would have to manually review individual client files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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 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 New Zealand Superannuation, 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



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