



Tēnā koe

On 9 June 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *How many of the employers in MSD's employment schemes (e.g. Flexi-wage, Mana in Mahi, etc) pay a living wage, broken down by scheme?*
2. *What is the mean and median pay for workers in MSD's employment schemes, broken down by scheme and ethnicity?*

Once a client has found employment, the Ministry does not generally record his or her income; that is, unless the client is in receipt of non-beneficiary support (e.g., Accommodation Supplement, Disability Allowance and Temporary Additional Support). Therefore, both parts of your request are refused under section 18(g) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no reason to believe that the information is held by another department.

It should be noted that, for employment schemes such as Mana in Mahi and Flexi-wage, the Ministry stipulates that the employer must pay the employee at least the adult minimum wage. More information about employment support offered by the Ministry, as well as that offered by other government agencies, can be viewed on the Connected website, here: [www.connected.govt.nz/](http://www.connected.govt.nz/).

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.

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 Ministry's employment schemes, 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



*PS* Bridget Saunders  
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