



11 MAR 2021

On 11 February 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and the Department of Internal Affairs requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. The figures on how many people applied for support under the Internal Affairs/ Red Cross Manaaki Manuhiri programme and how many were approved and denied please?*
- 2. Request for the same information for the benefit the Ministry is now paying out for overseas visitors and workers?*

In regard to question one, the Ministry does not hold information on the figures on how many people applied for support under the Internal Affairs/ Red Cross Manaaki Manuhiri programme. The Ministry, however, has received confirmation from the Department of Internal Affairs that they have provided you with a response in regard to the first question.

The Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders assists people that are in hardship and cannot return home or otherwise support themselves in New Zealand due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is an associated income and asset test and the Ministry must also consider other means that may be available to people when assessing their eligibility. For example, whether people are able to return to their home countries if they can no longer support themselves in New Zealand and whether they have sought consular assistance from their home government. It is short-term assistance and was initially available from 1 December 2020 to February 2021. The benefit has been extended until the 31 August 2021. Those receiving the Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders prior to 17 February 2021 and require ongoing payments do need to visit a Work and Income service centre for a face to face appointment. You can find more information about the eligibility criteria for this Emergency Benefit at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/temporary-visa-holders.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/temporary-visa-holders.html#null).

The information relating to February data has not been included as at the time you made the request, Ministry statistics for the month of February had not yet been compiled. If you are interested in this information, please feel free to make a new request by contacting us at [OIA\\_request@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_request@msd.govt.nz).

Please find **Appendix A** enclosed in this response which provides you with the following table:

**Table One**, the number of applications granted, and the number of applications declined for the Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders, for the period 1 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.

You may note that the values in each of the tables do not to equate to each other, this is due to random rounding that has been applied to all cell count in the tables. To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses this process to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. The published counts will never differ by more than 2 counts.

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 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, 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



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

## Appendix A

**Table One. The number of applications granted, and the number of applications declined for the Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders, for the period 1 December 2020 to 31 January 2021.**

<b>Applications Granted</b>	<b>Applications Declined</b>	<b>Total applications</b>
162	114	<b>273</b>

### Notes:

- This is the number of applications for Emergency Benefit for temporary visa holders.
- 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 count in the tables.
- 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 2 counts.