



Tēnā koe

On 30 August 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), material that has been created by the Ministry in the forms of documents, memos and reports, for the following information:

- 1. Any Ministerial Briefings from 1 January 2020 to date relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative*
- 2. Any internal reports, memos or papers from 1 January 2020 to date relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative to leadership teams, governance groups or similar bodies*
- 3. Any joint papers, updates or briefings from 1 January 2020 to date relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative*
- 4. Any Terms of Reference, Memoranda of Understanding and Partnership Agreements between the agencies participating in 1 January 2020 to date relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative*
- 5. Any internal communications from 1 January 2020 to date relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative.*

On 27 September 2021, MBIE transferred your request to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) in full for response because the information was more closely related to our functions and responsibilities.

The Apprenticeship Boost Initiative programme came into effect on 5 August 2020 and will expire on 4 April 2022. The purpose of this programme is to support employers to engage and retain eligible apprentices who are in training towards their qualification, and in turn, to assist New Zealand's recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. The policies regarding the initiative were led by the Ministry of Education, however, the administration of the scheme is led by the Ministry.

An employer is eligible for assistance under this programme if they:

- have applied for assistance in accordance with clause 9 of the programme,
- make an employment position, or engage a self-employed contractor, who is an eligible apprentice,
- are not a State Sector employer, and
- are not receiving a specified payment in respect of the eligible apprentice.

For the purpose of this programme, an eligible apprentice is a person who the Ministry is satisfied:

- is enrolled in a New Zealand Apprenticeship with a Transitional Industry Training Organisation,
- is enrolled in a Tertiary Education Commission (TEC)-recognised Managed Apprenticeship with a provider,
- has not had their enrolment withdrawn or put on hold,
- is in paid employment or a paid contracting arrangement with an applicant, and
- has completed no more than 24 months of a programme of study.

The amount of a grant for an applicant eligible under clause 6 of the programme is (exclusive of GST):

- \$1,000 per month during the first 12 months of the eligible apprentice's programme of study, to a maximum of \$12,000 per annum, and
- \$500 per month during the second 12 months of the eligible apprentice's programme of study, to a maximum of \$6,000 per annum.

You can find more information regarding the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/apprenticeship-boost-initiative-programme/index.html.

On 12 August 2021, the Ministry provided you with a response to your official information request regarding the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative. During this period one additional document has been identified to be within the scope of your current request and is enclosed:

- REP/21/6/571 - Joint Report - *Amendment of the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative Welfare Programme*, dated 10 June 2021

You will note that some information has been deemed to be 'out of scope' of your request, as this information related to a Ministry staff member who is below tier 4 and/or is not a decision-maker.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



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