



5 August 2022

Tēnā koe

On 22 June 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding re-establishment grants:

- *I would like any and all information available, such as internal documents and memos, staff guides, reports, training documentation, thresholds and payment types.*
- *While the MSD website does say it will consider applications for the Re-establishment grant on a case-by-case basis, I do assume there will be qualifying material as to how much to approve in what circumstance on a set of example cases. I would like any and all information relating to this.*

On 21 July 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advised you that more time was required for necessary consultations to make a decision on your request. As such, the due date of your request was amended to 4 August 2022 in accordance with section 15(1) and 15A of the Act.

A re-establishment grant is a form of Special Needs Grant that can be paid to people in specific situations who are re-establishing themselves in the community.

Re-establishment grants are granted in line with the Social Security Act 2018 and policies established by the Ministry and Minister of Social Development.

Policy and legislation used by Ministry staff to grant a re-establishment grant has been consolidated and is publicly available at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/special-needs-grant/re-establishment-grants-01.html.

This link contains the following groups of information which you can access via the links available on the webpage:

- Categories of re-establishment grant

- Example categories of qualifying re-establishment costs
- Maximum amounts payable
- Calculation of maximum amounts payable

One report has been identified in scope of your request. Please see this report attached.

Some information, including the title of this report, is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

One internal webpage was also identified to be in scope of your request. Please find attached, the following document:

- *Steps to Freedom (StF) – Doogle*, dated 20 December 2021.

You will note that the information regarding some individuals is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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 re-establishment grants, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Polly Vowles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Polly Vowles
Policy Manager
Welfare System Income and Support Policy