



5 December 2022

Tēnā koe

On 7 November 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many Childcare Providers currently receive the Childcare Subsidy?*
- *What percentage of the overall Childcare Subsidy goes to each provider?*
- *What is the dollar amount of funding to each provider?*
- *If some providers share a head office or are franchises, please show a combined total of received funding for these.*

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will respond to each part of your request in turn.

- *How many Childcare Providers currently receive the Childcare Subsidy?*

Table One: Number of current childcare providers and total weekly rate approved as at end of September 2022.

Number of providers	Total weekly rate of payment
2,990	\$1,711,546

Please note this data does not include OSCAR Subsidy payments as your question references Childcare Subsidy not Childcare Assistance, which would encompass both.

This data will include subsidy payments being paid to each centre in its own right. Some centres are owned by the same legal entity or company, however, we require each physical site to be registered to receive the subsidy regardless of whether they are owned by the same overarching company. So, whilst the figure shows 2,990 childcare providers, these are individual sites with separate provider numbers.

- *What percentage of the overall Childcare Subsidy goes to each provider?*
- *What is the dollar amount of funding to each provider?*

The total dollar amount distributed to these 2990 centres is \$1,711,545.96. This amount covers each provider who is registered in their own right to receive the subsidy but is not grouped together by who owns them.

To provide you with the percentage of the overall Childcare Subsidy that goes to each provider would require substantial manual collation and the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. I am therefore refusing this part of your request in full under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service. However, you can derive the percentage value using the information we have provided should you wish.

Please see the attached spreadsheet containing **Table Two** which outlines the list of current childcare providers and total weekly rate approved per provider as at the end of September 2022.

- *If some providers share a head office or are franchises, please show a combined total of received funding for these.*

In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as it requires substantial manual collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

For both parts of your request that I have refused under section 18(f) of the Act, I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 number of current childcare providers in receipt of the Childcare Subsidy, 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

Bridget Saunders

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