



4 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 9 June 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I am writing to request the data pertaining to the Flexi Wage Self Employment Grant.*
  1. *Specifically, the number of people who have enquired over the last 5 years, broken down by year.*
  2. *The number of people who have proceeded with an application over the last 5 years, broken down by year.*
  3. *The number of people who have been successful in their application over the last 5 years, broken down by year.*

For clarity, I will respond to each part of your request in turn. Some questions have been grouped together as they are for similar information.

1. *Specifically, the number of people who have enquired over the last 5 years, broken down by year.*
2. *The number of people who have proceeded with an application over the last 5 years, broken down by year.*

The Ministry is unable to provide you with the number of people who have enquired about Flexi Wage Self Employment (FWSE) and have proceeded with an application in the last 5 years, as this information is not recorded. As such, this section of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

*3. The number of people who have been successful in their application over the last 5 years, broken down by year.*

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing **Table One**, which shows the number of Flexi-Wage Self Employment contracts between 1 January 2017 and December 2021.

The FWSE is an assistance payment to help clients overcome financial barriers associated with moving into self-employment and establishing their own business. This payment is available for a maximum of 28 weeks, and it is expected that the client will be able to fully support themselves from their business in time.

An individual can get up to \$600 a week for a maximum of 28 weeks, totalling \$16,800. This is GST inclusive, and clients are responsible for paying GST and any other type of tax they're obligated to pay. The FWSE can also be pro-rated for those with part-time work obligations or paid to couples or groups wanting to start a business together. Part-time subsidies should be paid at a rate equivalent to 20 hours work a week - i.e. \$400 gross (GST inclusive) a week over 28 weeks.

More information on the FWSE is available on Work and Income's website at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/flexi-wage-self-employment.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/flexi-wage-self-employment.html).

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](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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Hetherington'.

Kristy Hetherington  
**Director**  
**Employment**

## Appendix one

**Table One: The number of Flexi-wage Self Employment contracts between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2021.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of contracts</b>
<b>2017</b>	168
<b>2018</b>	210
<b>2019</b>	210
<b>2020</b>	198
<b>2021</b>	495

### Notes

- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. This data table has had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.