

15 June 2022

Tēnā koe

On 6 June 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *If an individual has a winning at the casino, how does it affect one's benefit. I referred to the Work and Incomes website, and it states if one has a one off winning, he or she does not need to tell Work and Income of winnings but only needs to inform of the interest one earns if he or she saves or puts the money on term deposit*
- *How does it affect one's benefit if there are two winnings over the space of a year or does it still work the same?*

Information regarding how lottery prizes and gambling wins may affect a client's entitlement to main benefits and supplementary assistance can be found at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/core-policy/income/types-of-income/lottery-prizes-and-gambling-wins.html.

If a client wins lottery or other gambling winnings more than once within the space of a year on separate occasions, this would be interpreted as a one-off winning each unless the client is running some sort of betting scheme.

It should be noted that any interest earned from the investment of winnings or prizes is chargeable income. Funds retained from prize money or proceeds from the sale or disposal of prizes received are considered as a cash asset and may affect entitlement to supplementary assistance such as Accommodation Supplement, Temporary Additional Support, Special Needs Grants or Advances.

If the winnings or part of the winnings are given away, this could be considered as deprivation of income and/or assets. More information on the definition of deprivation of assets and income can be found at the following link:

www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/residential-care-subsidy/deprivation-of-assets-and-income.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 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, 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

Bridget Saunders
Manager Issue Resolution