



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

4 April 2023

Tēnā koe

On 3 March 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Could you please confirm or not Chinese State pensions are now subject to Sections 187-191, Social Security Act and have been deducted accordingly?*

Any payment that meets the criteria of an 'overseas pension' under Section 187 of the Social Security Act 2018 must reduce the rate of payment of a New Zealand benefit. The Ministry has undertaken an assessment and considers the Chinese Urban Employees' Pension meets the criteria under this provision.

The Chinese Urban Employees' Pension was subject to the direct deduction policy from 1 July 2022.

Resourcing constraints due to COVID-19 meant that Ministry staff were not available to begin testing for this overseas pension until recently. I can assure you that this pension is now on the Ministry's list of overseas pensions that fall under the direct deduction policy, and we are currently working through any payments since July 2022 that are impacted by this change.

Please note that the Ministry's responses to your request for information dated 29 August 2022, 9 November 2022 and 30 November 2022 advised that Chinese State Pensions were not subject to the deduction policy as provided for under section 187 to 191 of the Social Security Act 2018. The information provided to you was incorrect, and I apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding overseas pensions, 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



Vice Saletete  
**Manager, Centralised Service  
International Services**