



3 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 5 July 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Kia ora, As part of the budget 2022, \$86.486 million over four years was invested to support up to 64,000 people to gain a driver licence. I would like to request information on how this money has been spent, how much of it has been spent, and how many people have received assistance as a result of this investment, and of those people, how many received their drivers licence. Thanks

On 20 July 2023, the Ministry transferred your request in part to Waka Kotahi as the Driver Licence Support Initiative to which your request relates to has been allocated to both the Ministry and Waka Kotahi. As such, we could only provide you with information relating to funds that have been allocated to the Ministry. You can expect a response from Waka Kotahi in due course.

Budget 2022 announced funding of \$86.486m over four years to provide equitable access to class 1 driver licences for up to 64,000 people.

The Ministry received \$69.54m over four years to deliver contracted driver licence support through a national contracting framework, provide a public facing directory of services, and implement improved monitoring and reporting.

Waka Kotahi received \$19.95m to increase equitable access to testing and to support sector capability and capacity development.

The Ministry's funding includes \$64m over four years to contract Driver Licence Support programmes across New Zealand. The balance of \$5.54m over four years is for staffing costs, IT systems, consultation and engagement, as well as reporting and evaluation.

The breakdown of funding (\$64m) across the four years is below.

- Year one (22/23) \$10m for 10,000 people.

- Year two (23/24) \$15m for 15,000 people.
- Year three (25/26) \$19m for 19,000 people.
- Year four (27/28) \$20m for 20,000 people.

Funding in the first year was used to stabilise the existing contracted provision while beginning to evolve by investing in consultation and engagement, procurement processes, reporting, and monitoring.

Of the \$10m allocated in year one, \$9.7m has been spent. This has resulted in around 11,700 people receiving Driver Licence Support. To date around 5,900 people have gained a licence. Some people are still training, and some people are waiting to take a test.

Procurement for year two contracts has been completed with around 75 contracts in place across New Zealand to deliver Driver Licence Support programmes for 15,000 people. These contracts are five-year contracts (three years with a two year right of renewal).

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 regarding driver licence spending, 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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**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**