



31 March 2023

Tēnā koe

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

Hello. Where can I find a list of the Suppliers/Vendors that support the use of a Payment Card?

On 7 March 2023, the Ministry contacted you in regard to your request. We had advised you that your request was broad in scope and substantial manual collation would be required to provide the information requested. As your request was likely to be refused under section 18(f) of the Act on the basis of manual collation, you agreed to refine your request to list of suppliers/vendors in Kaitiaia.

Please refer to **Table One** in the attached **Appendix**, which shows a list of suppliers with a grant approved on a payment card for Special Needs Grant (SNG), Advance Payment of Benefit (ADV) or Recoverable Assistance Payment (RAP), paid on behalf of a client with a registered address in the Far North District TLA during the period 1 March 2021 to 28 February 2023.

Please note that the TLA is estimated based on the client's address at the time of the grant. This TLA may not be the same as the address of the registered supplier. Where the client address is not recorded, the location of the Ministry's service centre case managing the client has been used to approximate which TLA a client resides in. However, as the Ministry has switched to working from national queues, hardship grants could be granted by a case manager working anywhere in New Zealand. Therefore, in such cases, the TLA may not reflect the actual client address or location.

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 suppliers that support the use of a Work and Income payment card in the Far North District TLA, 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
Service Delivery