



18 May 2023

Tēnā koe

On 24 April 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Please provide the following information for the financial years 2020/21, 2021/22 and 2022/23:

- *Number of employees made redundant broken down into compulsory and voluntary redundancies. Please also provide total amount of redundancy pay-outs – compulsory as well as discretionary.*
- *For each compulsory redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide following:*
 - *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*
- *For each voluntary redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide the following:*
 - *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 50-55, 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*
- *Please provide following information for all cases of where the employee was eligible for early payment of pension:*
 - *Amount paid in statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out in discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*
 - *Total strain cost to the pension fund for early payment of pension due to redundancy.*
 - *If possible please break down this figure into strain costs due to voluntary and compulsory redundancy.*

For the sake of clarity, I will answer your questions in turn.

- *Number of employees made redundant broken down into compulsory and voluntary redundancies. Please also provide total amount of redundancy pay-outs – compulsory as well as discretionary.*
- *For each compulsory redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide following:*
 - *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*
- *For each voluntary redundancy, please provide the number of cases where the employee was eligible for payment of pension. For each of these cases, please provide the following:*
 - *Amount paid out as statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out as discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 50-55, 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70.*

The number of employees made redundant in the financial years 2020/21 and 2021/22 is publicly available in the 2021/22 Annual Review of the Ministry of Social Development. Please refer to page 79 of the following link: www.parliament.nz/resource/en-NZ/53SCSS_EVI_127528_SS5240/5bb09bc1a83e5bd3396f8d0b9f92fb86e85e984d.

This information cannot be provided for the 2022/23 financial year as the financial year ends on 30 June 2023. Further, the Ministry is unable to differentiate between compulsory and voluntary redundancies.

As such, I am refusing your request for this information under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

You may be interested to know that the Ministry's 2022/23 Estimates will be publicly available soon, which will contain redundancy information for the period 1 July 2022 – 31 March 2023. This information will be published on the New Zealand Parliament website later this year.

- *Please provide following information for all cases of where the employee was eligible for early payment of pension:*
 - *Amount paid in statutory redundancy payment*
 - *Amount paid out in discretionary redundancy payment*
 - *Age of the employee in bands of 5 years i.e. 55-60, 60-65, 65-70, over 70*
 - *Total strain cost to the pension fund for early payment of pension due to redundancy.*
 - *If possible please break down this figure into strain costs due to voluntary and compulsory redundancy.*

The Ministry has interpreted your question to be about private pension funds. Please contact the Ministry if this was not the intent of your request.

The Ministry has no visibility of private pension funds. As such, I am refusing your request for this information under section 18(g) of the Act as this information is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

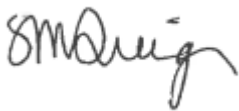
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 redundancies at the Ministry, 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



Sarah Quigan
Manager
Official Information