



13 August 2024

Tēnā koe

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your emails of 18 July 2024, requesting information on:

- *how many new Zealanders have applied for job seekers benefit from 12/1/2022 to today's date 18/7/2024*
- *how many new Zealanders are getting the winter energy payment from 1th may 2021 today's date 18/7/2024*
- *how many new Zealanders have more msd debt off over 3000 dollars or more*

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The enclosed **Appendix** contains **Table One** which shows the number of Jobseeker support benefit applications processed from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2024 by quarter and **Table Two** which shows the number of clients receiving the Winter Energy Payment as at the end of June 2021 to June 2024.

As at 30 June 2024 there are 206,115 distinct clients with a total debt of over \$3000 or more. This includes overpayment and recoverable assistance debts owing by both current clients and those no longer on a main benefit but excluding internal fraud and fraud debt.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**

## Appendix

**Table One: Number of Jobseeker Support benefit applications processed from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2024 by quarter.**

<b>Quarter Ending</b>	<b>Grant</b>	<b>Decline</b>	<b>Total Applications Processed (Grants + Declines)</b>
<b>March 2022</b>	32,574	6,675	<b>39,252</b>
<b>June 2022</b>	32,244	9,474	<b>41,715</b>
<b>September 2022</b>	34,113	7,311	<b>41,424</b>
<b>December 2022</b>	32,553	6,435	<b>38,991</b>
<b>March 2023</b>	33,171	6,639	<b>39,807</b>
<b>June 2023</b>	34,707	6,834	<b>41,544</b>
<b>September 2023</b>	37,719	7,656	<b>45,375</b>
<b>December 2023</b>	37,650	7,362	<b>45,012</b>
<b>March 2024</b>	35,652	7,182	<b>42,834</b>
<b>June 2024</b>	39,261	7,614	<b>46,875</b>

**Notes:**

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- This is a count of grants and declines and not a count of clients. The same client may have been granted or declined a benefit more than once.
- Jobseeker Support related includes Jobseeker Support Work Ready related and Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability related.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

**Table Two: Number of clients receiving the Winter Energy Payment as at end of June 2021 to June 2024.**

<b>As at end of</b>	<b>Total</b>
June 2021	903,768
June 2022	905,181
June 2023	924,930
June 2024	972,597

**Notes:**

- This is the number of Winter Energy Payment recipients. This table does not count partners who are included in a benefit.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.