



24 December 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 11 December 2024, requesting information about the number of Community Service Card holders both nationally and in the Masterton District.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

Please find attached Appendix One containing Table One showing the number of Community Service Card holders in the Masterton District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) and nationwide as at month ending November 2024.

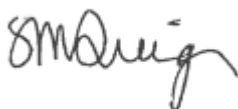
Regarding the part of your request for the number of households with at least one Community Services Card, the Ministry does not report this data by households. As such, this section of your request is refused under section 18(g) as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no 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.

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.

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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix One

Table One: The number of Community Service Card holders in the Masterton District Territorial Local Authority (TLA) and nationwide as at month ending November 2024.

Territorial Local Authority	Masterton District	Nationwide
Number of card holders	6,801	1,085,019

Notes:

- Territorial Local Authority is estimated based on the client’s address recorded by the Ministry of Social Development at the time period, the client may not necessarily reside in the same address at that time.
- Ungeocoded address records that are unable to be matched to a Territorial Local Authority through suburb and city details have an unknown Territorial Local Authority.
- These are all Community Services Cards on issue and reissue, including Community Services Cards only and Super Gold Card with a Community Services Cards.
- 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.