



14 June 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 27 May 2024, requesting information about New Zealand Superannuation (NZS). I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

- 1. Are recipients of NZ Super that are living in countries for more than 6 months with whom NZ does not have an agreement able to continue to receive NZ Super?*

It depends on if the client qualified for NZS without using an agreement, and if the client had time in New Zealand between the ages of 20 and 65. Portability can be paid to clients going to any other country using the General Portability (GP) residing provisions, or Special Portability into 22 specific Pacific Countries (SPAPC).

Clients travelling, not residing, for more than 26 weeks could apply for GP Travelling. The calculations for GP and SPAPC are different, but both operate using 'proportional' rates based on the amount of time a client spent in New Zealand.

For GP, clients may qualify for NZS but have no New Zealand residence between 20 and 65. Because the amount the Ministry would pay outside of New Zealand would be a proportional rate based on how many working age months they lived in NZ out of a total of 540 (months between the ages of 20 and 65), if a client's New Zealand residence was all after the age of 65, they wouldn't qualify for a rate of payment. The minimum we could pay would be 1/540th of the full gross rate of married or single sharing NZS.

For both SPAPC and GP, clients moving away from New Zealand would have to be in receipt of domestic NZS, ordinarily resident and present in New Zealand at the time of the application, and applications should be made before leaving New Zealand.

- 2. If so, which countries are able to receive the benefit if they are living there for longer than 6 months.*

New Zealand has agreements with the United Kingdom, Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey, Greece, the Netherlands, Canada, Denmark, Malta, South Korea and Australia. NZS is payable into 10 of the 11 agreement countries – it is not payable into the UK under the UK agreement, if a client is residing there.

Non-agreement portability can potentially be paid anywhere else. If a client is going to a Pacific Country covered by SPAPC, they'd have to go for 52 weeks or more, but could otherwise apply for GP.

- 3. Please provide the number of NZ Super beneficiaries living in each of those countries and how long they have been receiving the payments.*

Please find attached **Appendix One**, containing the following table:

Table One: Number of New Zealand Superannuation and General and Special Portability clients as at the end of April 2024, by agreement or non-agreement country, and by country.

I am unable to provide you with the duration that these clients have been receiving these payments, as this information is held in notes on individual client files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

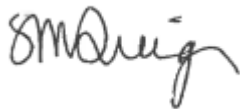
I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, 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 regarding New Zealand Superannuation, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M O'Neill', written in a cursive style.

pp.

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services