



13 March 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email of 17 February 2024, in which you requested information about the Sole Parent Support benefit (SPS). I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please find eight tables set out below, providing the data you have requested.

**Table One:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for 25 percent or less of the time, from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

Count
6

**Table Two:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for less than 40 percent of the time, from 1 January to 31 December 2020.

Count
15

**Table Three:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for 25 percent or less of the time, from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

Count
6

**Table Four:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for less than 40 percent of the time, from 1 January to 31 December 2021.

Count
24

**Table Five:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for 25 percent or less of the time, from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

Count
9

**Table Six:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for less than 40 percent of the time, from 1 January to 31 December 2022.

Count
21

**Table Seven:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for 25 percent or less of the time, from 1 January to 31 August 2023.

Count
3

**Table Eight:** Working age SPS grants where the child or children included in the benefit were all in care for less than 40 percent of the time, from 1 January to 31 August 2023.

Count
15

**Notes:**

- SPS grants included in this list are not necessarily still current.

- In some instances, the number of days in care of a dependent child on a client's record has not been updated to reflect circumstances at time of SPS grant.
- Any discrepancies identified have been referred for follow up, to ensure that the clients in receipt are receiving their correct payments.
- The tables include working-age clients only (18 to 64 years).
- This is a count of grants, not clients, and the same clients may have been granted more than once.
- The percentage of time in care is based on the number of days in care calculated for each child included in the benefit as at the benefit commencement date.
- Some cases may be excluded due to the timing of the child's inclusion in the parent benefit.

**Confidentiality:**

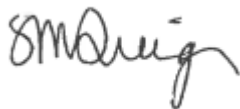
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding 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.

I will publish 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](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 nui



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Magnus O'Neill

**General Manager  
Ministerial and Executive Services**