



19 March 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 27 February 2024, in which you requested the number of Historic Claims claimants who received offers, or indicative offers, under the Rapid Payment Framework prior to the publication of the Rapid Payments Fact Sheet.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and have set out my response below.

I have also provided some general information about rapid payment assessments at the end of this letter for your information.

### ***Confirm date Rapid Payments fact sheet was made public***

I can advise that the Rapid Payments Fact Sheet was published on the Historic Claims website on 3 March 2023.

### ***The number of claimants who received an RPF offer or indicative offer before the Rapid Payments Fact Sheet was made public and finalised. Please divide the number of claimants into claimants represented by Cooper Legal and the remainder of claimants***

**Table one:** The number of claimants who received indicative or formal offers under the rapid payment framework up to 3 March 2023, by claimant type.

<b>Claimant type</b>	<b>Number of claimants offered a rapid payment</b>
Cooper Legal	67
Direct or represented by another law firm	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>114</b>

### **Notes:**

- The data contained in this response has been collated from the Historic Claims Application which centrally records claim related data as well as individual claimant files. As this data is manually entered, it may be subject to human error.

## **General information about rapid payment assessments**

The Ministry began offering rapid payment assessments at the end of 2022 to historic abuse survivors who were seriously ill; those aged 70 years or older; and those with the oldest claims.

Claimants had the option of having their claim assessed under the rapid payment framework or as an individualised claim assessment, or they could put their claim on hold until decisions about the redress process have been made and a new system is implemented.

When claimants were identified to be eligible for a rapid payment, Historic Claims would reach out to discuss their options. Communications included information about how rapid payments are calculated; the process of individualised claim assessments; the points of difference; and what the different options could mean for the claimant.

Indicative rapid payment offers were also used as part of the discussion of options with claimants, to provide greater transparency about the possible outcome under each assessment pathway, prior to the claimant deciding which pathway to choose.

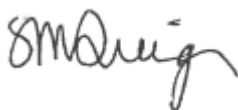
Although it was not yet published on the Historic Claims website, the Rapid Payment Fact Sheet was sent to direct claimants where this was appropriate. A copy of the Rapid Payment Fact Sheet was provided to Cooper Legal on 21 October 2022, prior to any offers being made.

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

pp. 

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