



23 September 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your emails on 9 September 2024, in which you made requests for official information on two separate occasions. You requested for information relating to hardship assistance and food assistance provided to individuals in Waikato, by providers who received funding assistance from the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry).

I have considered both your requests under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), and for the sake of clarity, I will address both requests in this response.

Please find my decision on your requests set out separately below.

***1. Hardship assistance payments by number and value of payments for reasons of assistance with food, accommodation, electricity/gas costs and the totals of hardship assistance payments (numbers and value) for every quarter between June 2019 and June 2024 made through the following Work and Income service centres***

<i>Cambridge</i>	<i>Dinsdale</i>	<i>Five Cross Roads</i>
<i>Hamilton East</i>	<i>Huntly</i>	<i>Kirikiroa</i>
<i>Matamata</i>	<i>Morrinsville</i>	<i>Ngaruawahia</i>
<i>Paeroa</i>	<i>Taupō</i>	<i>Te Awamutu</i>
<i>Te Kuiti</i>	<i>Thames</i>	<i>Waihi</i>

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which shows the number of hardship grants and amount granted for selected service centres during the period 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2024, by quarter, approving Service Centre and reason grant.

***2. Outcomes reported by agencies based in Waikato region which received funding under the Community Food Response Extension Fund for the 2022/23 year including data on food parcels and other food assistance provided and the numbers of individuals or families assisted if this available.***

Over this period the Ministry invested funding in a range of community food providers and food hubs through different funding rounds. These providers report through an online reporting tool called SORT. Food providers report on the number

of food parcels they distributed during the period and food hubs report on the number of KGs of essential food supplies they distributed.

Please refer to the table immediately below which shows a monthly breakdown in SORT for the sum of parcels and the sum of KGs of food that providers assisted individuals/families with, in Waikato.

<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>Sum of food parcels</b>	<b>Sum of kilograms</b>
August	1234	36496
September	1918	32864
October	2379	34454
November	2322	31609
December	2852	26812
January	2241	28670
February	1727	34902
March	2474	42728
April	1318	28517
May	3517	37232
June	2450	38106
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>24,431</b>	<b>372,391</b>

Providers also provide narrative reporting and a summary of this reporting can be found at the following link: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/download-the-outcomes-of-the-community-food-response-extension-fund.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/download-the-outcomes-of-the-community-food-response-extension-fund.pdf).

***3. Outcomes reported by agencies based in Waikato region which received funding under the Community Food Infrastructure Grant Fund for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 years, including data on food parcels and other food assistance provided and the numbers of individuals or families if this is available.***

Please refer to the table immediately below which shows a monthly breakdown in SORT for the sum of parcels and the sum of KGs of food that providers assisted individuals/families with, in Waikato.

<b>2023/2024</b>	<b>Sum of food parcels</b>	<b>Sum of kilograms</b>
July	1156	32548
August	1746	55772
September	1495	53216
October	1340	35051
November	1217	27466
December	1871	22330
January	1122	31418
February	1268	27685
March	1357	26018
April	1309	27116
May	1495	76004
June	6570	42651
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>21,946</b>	<b>457,275</b>

***4. Outcomes reported by agencies based in Waikato region which received funding under the Puta Ora Food Security Initiatives Fund for the 2023/24 year, including data on food parcels and other food assistance provided and the numbers of individuals or families if this is available.***

Put a Ora grant recipients provide narrative reports on their outcomes and a summary of this report can be found at the following link:<sup>1</sup> <https://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/what-we-can-do/community/food-secure-communities/download-the-outcomes-of-the-puta-ora-food-security-fund.pdf>.

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).

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<sup>1</sup> The Ministry does not hold any other relevant information, and so other the aspects of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Magnus', written over a light grey grid background.

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