



4 December 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email of 15 October 2025, requesting information on the total amount paid to foreign governments for reciprocal social security agreements.

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

- *The total amount in New Zealand dollars the Government of New Zealand paid foreign governments, it has reciprocal social security agreements with, split by country, each year for the past five years. If possible please also split this by the type of benefit this relates to (e.g. pension, disability, etc).*
- *Please specify if the payments were offset by money not received by foreign governments under these agreements (but otherwise due to New Zealand), and if so please specify the amount of the offset in New Zealand dollars for each case.*

I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information you have requested does not exist. The Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and the New Zealand Government do not make payments to foreign governments under reciprocal Social Security Agreements (SSAs), nor do foreign governments make payments to New Zealand under these agreements. Therefore, there are no offsets to consider.

New Zealand has reciprocal SSAs with Australia, Canada, Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Jersey and Guernsey, Malta, the Netherlands, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. These agreements allow people to use periods of residence in New Zealand, and periods of residence and/or social security contributions in partner countries to help qualify (totalise) for certain New Zealand benefits or pensions while living overseas. The United Kingdom is the only host agreement country, under which persons moving from New Zealand to the UK receive payments from the UK government rather than New Zealand.

Depending on the terms of the agreement, the New Zealand benefits that may be payable under the SSAs are New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Supported Living Payment (for severe disability), and some other working-age benefits.

In addition to SSAs, should a person wish to travel or reside outside of New Zealand for more than 26 weeks, New Zealand Superannuation and the Veteran's Pension may also be paid overseas through general portability or under the Special Portability Arrangement for eligible Pacific countries.

Please find the attached **Appendix** that may be of interest to you, which contains the amounts paid to clients overseas broken down by country, payment type and amounts as of 31 October 2025.

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.



Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix: Data on Portable Payments to clients by agreement country, benefit type and amount as of 31 October 2025.

Agreement Countries	New Zealand Superannuation Overseas	Supported Living Payments Overseas	Veterans Pension	Widows Benefit Overseas	Total
Australia	\$603,436,479.36	\$37,125,586.16	\$1,425,842.08		\$641,987,907.60
Canada	\$8,908,633.24	\$28,019.16	\$4,542.20		\$8,941,194.60
Denmark	\$713,117.08				\$713,117.08
Greece	\$2,788,340.88			\$1,551.16	\$2,789,892.04
Guernsey	\$169,459.68	\$21,413.60			\$190,873.28
Jersey	\$181,649.52				\$181,649.52
Malta	\$139,279.40				\$139,279.40
Netherlands	\$8,653,759.40	\$19,700.20			\$8,673,459.60
Ireland	\$2,487,570.80	\$20,608.64			\$2,508,179.44
South Korea	\$2,351,228.36				\$2,351,228.36
The United Kingdom	\$-				\$-
Total	\$629,829,517.72	\$37,215,327.76	\$1,430,384.28	\$1,551.16	