



21 January 2025

Tēnā koe

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2025, requesting information about electricity and gas assistance.

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

On 11 December 2024, the Ministry provided you with the number of grants and amounts approved for electricity and gas for the period 1 January 2019 to 31 October 2024, broken down by calendar year and benefit type.

As such, we have only provided you with the number of grants for 2024, to complete the data you have already received.

Please see the attached **Appendix** detailing the updated number of grants and amounts approved for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, broken down by benefit type.

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 nui

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

## Appendix

**Table: The number of grants and amounts approved for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024, broken down by benefit type.**

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Number of grants</b>	<b>Amount granted</b>
<b>Emergency Benefit</b>	141	\$76,073
<b>Emergency Maintenance Allowance</b>	66	\$39,396
<b>Jobseeker Support Student Hardship</b>	42	\$19,070
<b>Jobseeker Support</b>	13,365	\$6,380,538
<b>New Zealand Superannuation and Veteran's Pension</b>	2,025	\$1,135,030
<b>No Benefit</b>	639	\$344,789
<b>Non Beneficiary</b>	3,249	\$1,782,622
<b>Orphan's benefit and Unsupported Child Benefit</b>	78	\$54,045
<b>Sole Parent Support</b>	11,481	\$6,357,493
<b>Supported Living Payments related</b>	5,469	\$2,761,100
<b>Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment</b>	78	\$32,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,627</b>	<b>\$18,983,095</b>

### Notes:

- The table excludes Water Assistance.
- This is a count of grants. A client can have more than one grant in the time period.
- Amount granted is not necessarily the amount spent.
- Benefits are paid as a Special Needs Grant (SNG), Advance payment of Benefit(ADV) and Recoverable Assistance Payment (RAP).
- Please note that 'non-beneficiary' refers to clients which are not on main benefits but still receive some assistance from the Ministry.
- Please note that 'no benefit' refers to clients with no on-going assistance.
- 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.