



22 January 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 5 December 2024, requesting information about the Christchurch Mosques Attack Assistance.

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

- 1. I have been notified by the minister of ACC that the mosque shooting attack victims not physically injured or at work were compensated through MSD. I request all correspondence between ACC and MSD agencies regarding this "agreement".*

Your request for this correspondence is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist. No agreement was set up between the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) and ACC. The Ministry set up a welfare programme called the Christchurch Mosques Attack Welfare Programme, but this was not due to an agreement with ACC.

- 2. The section of legislation that MSD relied on to make payments and the term of the payment made and a sample of the approval letter.*

You can find the relevant legislation here, specifically clause 19:

- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/christchurch-mosques-attack-welfare-programme/part-2-who-this-programme-applies-to.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/christchurch-mosques-attack-welfare-programme/part-2-who-this-programme-applies-to.html)
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/christchurch-mosques-attack-welfare-programme/part-3-types-of-available-assistance.html>

The Christchurch Mosque Attack Assistance was available from 3 June 2019 and ended on 30 June 2024.

Please see attached a sample of the approval letter. Personal details are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of this individual outweighs any public interest in this information.

*3. The number of people compensated for in the mosque shooting not physically injured.*

There were 159 distinct clients who have received the Christchurch Mosque Welfare Programme assistance from 15 March 2019 to 30 June 2024.

*4. The amount of money compensated/ paid to the victims (broken down into categories and the determination of these categories).*

Please see the following table showing the amount of money paid for the Christchurch Mosque Welfare Programme assistance, broken down by financial year.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Amount paid</b>
<b>FY19</b>	\$105,419
<b>FY20</b>	\$776,982
<b>FY21</b>	\$284,546
<b>FY22</b>	\$172,755
<b>FY23</b>	\$68,540
<b>FY24</b>	\$278,185
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,686,427</b>

We are unable to provide this information broken down into categories as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

*5. Time taken for the payment to be paid.*

Your request for the time taken for the payments to be made is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as this information is held on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

*6. Investigation or qualifying requirements for the payments to be made.*

To qualify for the Christchurch Mosque Attack Assistance, the client must have met the following general qualifications:

- Have been an affected person and
- Not qualified for a benefit paid under the Social Security Act 2018 and

- Been unable to earn enough income to support themselves and any independent's family.

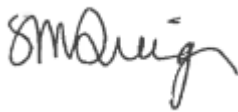
You can read further about the qualifications for each special assistance payment here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/christchurch-mosques-attack-assistance/qualifications.html>

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

pp. 

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

s9(2)(a)

21 June 2019

Client Number: s9(2)(a)

Dear s9(2)(a)

### **We'll make a Christchurch payment to you**

Thank you for getting in touch about the Christchurch mosques attack payment.

We're sorry to hear you've been affected by this terrible event. We're pleased to be able to give you some financial help from 20 June 2019.

The payments for the week before will be made into your bank account s9(2)(a) each week on a Wednesday. You don't need to pay tax on this money.

You'll usually get \$215.96 each week, but this may vary from time to time if your circumstances change. We'll get in touch with you to check on how things are going for you and to see if you're getting the right amount of money from us.

### **Medical confirmation**

Thank you for providing us with a medical confirmation. We can pay you until 22 July 2019 unless there are changes for you or your family that mean we need to review it. We'll be back in touch with you before then to see how things are going for you and make sure you continue to get any help we can provide.

### **Let us know when things change**

If your situation changes, it's important to let us know straight away. The amount of money you can get from us may also change. We really don't want you to miss out on money you might need, or have to pay money back to us.

We've attached a list of things you need to tell us about. You can do this by calling us on 03 961 9257.

### **If you're going overseas for a short period of time**

If you're going overseas for more than 28 days, and plan to come back to New Zealand, please call and let us know. We can only make this payment to you for 28 days while you're temporarily overseas.

You can call us again when you come back to see how we can help.

**If you're leaving New Zealand permanently**

If you're leaving New Zealand permanently, for instance to return to your home country, please also let us know. Your payments will stop from the day after you leave.

**We're here to help**

We hope this makes things a little easier for you. If you have any questions or concerns, please call us.

If you don't think we have this right or there's something you don't understand, we may be able to fix it on the phone or find other ways we can help. Please call us on 03 961 9257.

You also have the right to ask us to review this decision formally. There's more information over the page about how to do this.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. Jackson', written over a large, light grey diagonal watermark that reads 'RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT'.

Denise Jackson  
Director Recovery

## **General information**

[workandincome.govt.nz](http://workandincome.govt.nz)

## **Changes in your circumstances**

It's important to tell us straight away about any changes that could affect your payments so we pay you the right amount.

When you should contact us:

- Your work situation changes
- You are leaving New Zealand for any length of time
- A child comes into or leaves your care
- Starting or stopping studying
- You get other help that changes your situation
- You change your personal details such as your address, phone number, email address or bank account number
- You or any child in your care changes their name

## **Your rights if you disagree with a decision we've made**

If you don't understand or agree with a decision we've made, please talk to us.

If you disagree with any decision you have a right to apply for a review. An application for review needs to be made in writing within three months of the decision. You can use the review of decision or medical appeals board application forms on our website or write to us.

If you can't do this within three months, please talk to us.

If you have a good reason for a delay, your review may still be considered.

Visit:

[Workandincome.govt.nz/rights](http://Workandincome.govt.nz/rights)  
for more information