



22 January 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 11 December 2024, in which you requested information on whether Historic Claims claimants receive higher settlement offers than non-represented claimants.

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

The Ministry's Historic Claims team assesses direct and legally represented claims in the same manner. While assessing a claim, the Historic Claims team apply the same assessment frameworks to both direct and legally represented claims. There are two assessment options that claimants can choose from: a rapid payment or an individualised claim assessment.

The Business Process and Guidance (available at the following link: [The MSD Historic Claims Handbook](#)) details how rapid payments are calculated and how payment categories for individualised claim assessments are determined.

We analysed offers made to claimants since November 2022 when we first implemented rapid payments. The average payments for both legally represented claims and direct claims, for individualised assessments and rapid payments, sit between \$22,000.00 and \$22,400.00 as shown in the table below.

	<b>Direct</b>	<b>Legally Represented</b>
<b>Offer amount</b>	\$22,051.73	\$22,386.91

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 regarding Historic Claims payments, 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**