



31 July 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2025, requesting information about the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy August 2021 applications for Farmers Trading Company Ltd.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) and can confirm there is no further information to add beyond what has already been provided in our response dated 9 May 2025 – for ease of reference however, I have set out each part of your recent request as below.

*This is a request under the Official Information Act about the COVID 19 wage subsidy programme. The Farmers' Trading Company was paid a total of \$8,079,204 for the August 2021 lockdown because of COVID-19.*

*I understand that for the August 2021 wage subsidy scheme, businesses had to apply every two weeks for the subsidy and that for each application, in the case of businesses with more than 80 employees, a pre-payment assessment had to be completed by MSD.*

*Could you please advise, in respect of the Farmers' Trading company;*

*Question 1: How many applications were made by Farmers' Trading for the August 2021 wage subsidy?*

As noted in our response dated 9 May 2025, The Farmers' Trading Company Limited (FTCL) made three applications for the Wage Subsidy August 2021 scheme, all of which were approved:

- COVID-19 Wage Subsidy August 2021 (1), dated 1 September 2021
- COVID-19 Wage Subsidy August 2021 (1), dated 2 September 2021
- COVID-19 Wage Subsidy August 2021 (2), dated 15 September 2021<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> A fourth "cloned" application, which was a duplicate of the 15 September 2021 application was generated by the Ministry to enable the inclusion of additional FTCL employees.

*Question 2: Could I have a copy of each of the pre- payment assessments for the applications made by Farmers' Trading for the August 2021 wage subsidy.*

We refer you to Appendix B in our response dated 9 May 2025, in which you were provided with all relevant pre-payment assessments completed in relation to FTCL's wage subsidy claims.

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).

I would like to reiterate, 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. 

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**