

3 March 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 30 January 2025, requesting a breakdown of JS and JS-HCD recipients by condition type and length of benefit receipt, and the number of designated doctors.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below. For the sake of clarity, I will respond to your request in parts.

- 1. The average length of time for people to be receiving Jobseeker Support, over the past five years?*
- 2. The average length of time for people to be receiving Jobseeker Support (health condition or disability) also over the past five years.*
- 3. The longest period of time that someone has been receiving Jobseeker Support - both health condition or disability specific and just generally*
- 4. A further breakdown of the medical conditions of JS HCS recipients - what were the five most common psychological or psychiatric conditions of recipients and the five most common cardiovascular conditions - and how many JS recipients last year had each of these conditions?*

Please find this information attached in **Appendix A**. The breakdown of incapacity reasons provided as part of Table 3 are broader subgroups collated from exact diagnoses provided to the Ministry by the practitioner who completes the medical certificate. This data is intended to provide a high level overview of conditions, and therefore some accuracy may be lost when compared to the sum of clients' specific diagnoses.

- 5. How many designated doctors the Ministry of Social Development currently employs to give a second opinion on the eligibility of beneficiaries*

Please note that the Ministry has updated the term 'designated doctors' to 'designated health practitioners.'

There are 78 approved designated health practitioners that work with the Ministry. I note that designated health practitioners are not employed by the Ministry. Instead, the Ministry refers clients to designated health practitioners. The Ministry will meet the cost of this assessment.

More information on designated health practitioners can be found on our website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/designated-health-practitioner.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.

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

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over the 'pp.' text.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services