



3 November 2025

Tēnā koe

**Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 9 October 2025, requesting information about requesting information about working age main benefit clients by area.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing the number of current working age clients on a main benefit for the quarter ending September 2025, by 2017 Area Unit Boundary.

To protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S.' The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in the information.

The Ministry is releasing this information to you in good faith, with the understanding that a payment will be made as previously agreed. You will receive an invoice in due course.

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.

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