



3 November 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 3 October 2025, requesting information about the total COVID-19 Wage Subsidy provided to the pharmacy sector.

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 does not report COVID-19 wage subsidies by industry because the application form did not capture this detail. This means we are unable to provide pharmacy-sector specific data. Your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

In the spirit of being helpful, I have included links to publicly available resources:

- **Who received the COVID-19 wage subsidies? - September 2020:** This page includes a report and data file which provides a broad industry breakdown based on anonymised tax data matched through Statistics NZ's Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI): www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/who-received-the-covid-19-wage-subsidies-september-2020.html. For more information regarding the IDI, please see the following link: www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/integrated-data-infrastructure/.
- **COVID-19 Wage Subsidies Employer Search Tool:** This tool lets you search information on individual businesses who accessed the subsidies, including the name of the employer, the number of employees for whom payment has been made, the amount paid, and payment type: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/covid-19-wage-subsidy-employer-search.html. Amounts paid to a business as displayed in the search tool are equal to all COVID-19 wage subsidy amounts paid subtracted by any repayments the business has made to the Ministry.

We are also providing you with a previously released response that provides a list of businesses paid the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy with repayment information up to 31 October 2024 that you may find of interest. You can find this response on the Ministry's publicly available website here:

- Response: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2025/january/17012025-a-list-of-all-covid-19-wage-subsidy-grants.pdf
- Appendix: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/2025/january/17012025-a-list-of-all-covid-19-wage-subsidy-grants-data.xlsx

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

pp. *Anna Graham*

Anna Graham
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