



13 October 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2025, requesting information from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. On 16 September 2025, part of this request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) regarding the total number of people on refugee visas who are receiving ongoing accommodation supplement or benefit payments or other welfare assistance.

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

- *Total number of all visa types issued for entry into New Zealand, please provide the following data for the most recent full calendar year (or please specify the available date range): [...]*

For the Refugee Category specifically, please also provide:

- *Ongoing accommodation support*
- *Benefit payments and other welfare assistance*

Your request for information about the total number of people of refugee status receiving ongoing accommodation support and benefit payments is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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 in a cursive style.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services