



12 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 18 August 2025 requesting information about the number of working age people in receipt of a main benefit who transferred to NZ Superannuation (NZS) payments.

How many working age recipients of main benefits transferred to Superannuation:

1/ During 2016, 2020 and 2024?

2/ During the second quarter of 2025?

3/ For the second quarter of 2025 please supply an ethnic breakdown.

4/ For the second quarter of 2025 please supply a breakdown of the working age benefits they were transferred from

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

Your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to locate and prepare all information within scope of your request.

An initial assessment has identified that Ministry staff routinely process working age clients' NZS applications many months before they reach the qualifying age for NZS (65 years old). When this happens, the client is essentially granted NZS ahead of time, but they do not begin receiving NZS payments until they reach the age of eligibility.

The date someone's NZS payments begin is not centrally recorded. To verify whether the working age people who have had their NZS application processed early actually went on to receive NZS payments, Ministry staff would either need to build new coding to extract this data from our client database or staff would need to manually review hundreds of individual client's files. 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 core work would still be prejudiced.

However, please refer to **Appendix One**, which provides "all ages" data of people who transferred from a main benefit to NZ Superannuation between 2016 – 2025. We are able to provide this information as it is recorded centrally by the Ministry. This data includes clients over the age of 65 years who went from a main benefit to receiving NZS (because, for example, they did not meet the residency criteria to qualify for NZS when they turned 65 years old).

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services