



25 September 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 29 August 2025, requesting information about weekly income support data provided to Minister Upston and the Ministry of Social Development's Chief Executive, Debbie Power.

1. *Does the Ministry track weekly income support data; particularly weekly fluctuations in jobseeker numbers?*
 - *If so, what data specifically is tracked (such as overall numbers, regional fluctuations, ethnic and gender data, etc.)*
2. *Does the Ministry provide the Minister, or her office, with weekly income support data; if so:*
 - *what data?*
 - *Is the Minister, or her office, kept informed about weekly jobseeker numbers specifically and, if so, what specific jobseeker data do they receive, and how?*
3. *What weekly updates regarding income support data does Debbie Powers receive; if anything, I also request a copy of the most recent weekly update (or equivalent) that Debbie Powers received at the time of the lodging of this OIA (presumably the week of 18th August 2025).*
4. *Does Debbie Powers receive the same weekly information that the Minister does, and:*
 - *If so: what do both Debbie Powers and the Minister receive*
 - *If not: In what way does what Debbie Powers and the Minister receive differ, and does it differ following direction from the Minister or her office?*
 - *If they receive different information due to direction from the Minister or her office, I also request copies of any documents or communications that outline this.*

No, the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) stopped publishing weekly benefit data at the end of October 2024, following changes to the Ministry's reporting.

The Ministry's standard reporting is monthly and quarterly which continue to be published and can be found on the Ministry's website, I have provided you with the links below:

- [Benefit Fact Sheets - Ministry of Social Development](#)
- [Monthly Reporting - Ministry of Social Development](#)

While Ministry systems collect data daily, it requires processing and summarisation to make it suitable for reporting and analysis. This data is no longer processed in a way that is readily available for public reporting.

Neither the Minister nor the Ministry's Chief Executive, Debbie Power, have received weekly income support data since 2024, coinciding with the changes to Ministry's reporting.

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
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services