



5 March 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 March 2026, requesting information about main benefits.

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

- *What checks does WINZ do to establish the financial position of a person before cutting their benefit.*

I have interpreted your request to refer to the cancellation of a benefit. To obtain and maintain a benefit, clients are required to meet the relevant eligibility criteria and maintain fulfilment of their obligations. A client's benefit may be cancelled if they are found to no longer meet the eligibility criteria. If a client's benefit is cancelled, the Ministry does not undertake a financial viability assessment.

You can find more information about the different types of income support, including the relevant eligibility criteria, here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/index.html>.

- *How many cases were there where a person had a benefit cut between 1 July 2025 and 31 December 2026, and of those cases how many people were left with less than \$300 a week of income, or WINZ did not establish the financial position of the person who had the benefit cut?*

Please see the attached **Appendix** for **Table One** detailing the number of working age main benefit recipients who had their benefit cancelled between 1 July and 31 December 2025, broken down by reason group.

Your request for the number of people who were left with less than \$300 a week of income is refused under 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 either held by or closely connected to the functions of another department, Minister of the Crown or organisation.

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
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