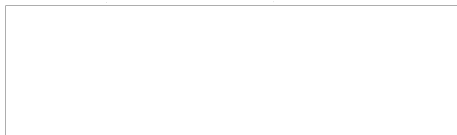




23 MAY 2016



Dear 

On 24 March 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Is insurance company Youi NZ still qualifying for the flexi-wage grant?*

As you will be aware, on 1 July 2012, Work and Income introduced Job Streams, a flexible package that is tailored to meet the needs of both employers and clients through wage subsidies, training and in-work support. Job Streams replaced six previous employment and training programmes, including Skills for Growth, Straight to Work and Job Ops.

Job Streams supports those job seekers most at risk of long term benefit dependence into work, such as young job seekers and sole parent job seekers with work obligations. Flexi-Wage is a programme within the Job Streams package that provides a time limited wage subsidy to offset the costs of training and supervising a new employee moving from benefit into employment. Where appropriate, Flexi-Wage can also be used to purchase short term work-related training relevant to the new job (for example a fork lift license, or a barista course).

More information regarding wage subsidies is available at www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/employment-and-training/employment-and-work-readiness-assistance/wage-subsidy-01.html

I can advise that the insurance company Youi New Zealand is not currently in receipt of the Flexi-Wage employment subsidy.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public after ten working days. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and

the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

I hope you find this information helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bound', written in a cursive style.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery