



09 AUG 2017

Section 9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Persons

Dear s 9(2)(a)

On 15 July 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many Canadian pension clients does the Ministry of Social Welfare have as regards modifying their NZ Superannuation payments?*

Section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 requires a person's and/or their partner's rate of New Zealand benefit or pension to be reduced where an overseas benefit or pension is:

- part of a programme that provides benefits, pensions and periodical allowances for the similar circumstances for which New Zealand benefits, pensions and periodical allowances would be paid (for example old age and retirement); and
- administered by, or on behalf of, an overseas government

The policy intent of section 70 is to ensure that those entitled to a New Zealand benefit or pension are treated equitably and receive the same level of government retirement support whether solely through a New Zealand benefit or pension, through a combination of overseas pension and a New Zealand benefit or pension or through the overseas pension. Were it not for section 70, those who have lived, and worked, in overseas countries may be entitled to a greater overall level of government retirement support than those who had solely resided, and worked, in New Zealand.

I can advise you that as at 30 June 2017, there are 2,632 current clients receiving a New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension, with a section 70 deduction due to being in receipt of a Canadian pension.

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

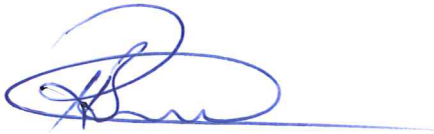
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 shortly. 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.

If you wish to discuss this response concerning superannuitants receiving a Canadian pension with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery