



11 JUL 2017



Dear

On 13 June 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *What length of time the current longest registered beneficiary in the Waikato region been receiving financial assistance from Work and Income New Zealand in the form of a regular benefit payment?*
- *In what part of the Waikato does this person live?*
- *The number of Waikato beneficiaries who have been receiving benefits over a number of years: I require this to be broken down by those receiving benefit payments for 15 years or more - between 10 and 15 years - between 5 and 10 years - between 2 and 5 years - and less than two years.*
- *I would also like the number of people on beneficiaries Nationally.*

On 22 June 2017, you amended your request to include the number of people in receipt of a continuous benefit of over ten years.

I can advise you that the longest time a client has been in continuous receipt of a benefit in the Waikato region is approximately 42 years. However the area in which the client is residing is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

I have enclosed one table that shows the continuous duration of working age clients in receipt of a main benefit as at the end of March 2017 in the Waikato region.

Your request for information regarding the total number of clients in receipt of a benefit nationally is available on the benefit fact sheets publically available on the Ministry's website at:

[www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html#Datatables6](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html#Datatables6)

Further information about the benefits available to people and the eligibility criteria of each benefit is available at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html)

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 and any attached documents 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 with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**

**Table 1: The number of working age clients in receipt of a main benefit broken down by length of continuous duration in Waikato as at 31 March 2017.**

Main benefit type	Continuous Duration				Total
	0-2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	Over 10 years	
Jobseeker Support	6,929	2,066	1,159	731	<b>10,885</b>
Supported Living Payment	792	1,485	1,885	3,908	<b>8,070</b>
Sole Parent Support	2,386	1,589	1,255	712	<b>5,942</b>
Other	91	37	30	11	<b>169</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,198</b>	<b>5,177</b>	<b>4,329</b>	<b>5,362</b>	<b>25,066</b>

**Notes:**

- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- Main Benefits exclude NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- Continuous duration is how long the current recipients of a benefit (or benefit group) have been continuously receiving a benefit in the wider benefit system, including time on all benefits except UCB, OB, NZS, Veteran's Pension and non beneficiary assistance.
- Other Benefits consists of EMA, JSSH, and EB.
- EMA is Emergency Maintenance Allowance.
- JSSH is Jobseeker Support Student Hardship.
- EB is Emergency Benefit.