



5 OCT 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 3 September 2018 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many people have chosen to use this "special banking option" to have the NZ pension paid to them while their overseas pension goes to the NZ government?*
- *Is this option widely publicised to those who are experiencing pension deductions?*

As advised in the Ministry's previous response to you dated 29 August 2018, the Special Banking Option is available to persons from specific countries (Australia, Guernsey, Ireland, Jersey, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom) who meet the criteria outlined on the following webpage: www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/special-banking-option.html

Special Banking Option forms and an information booklet about the payment options are provided with overseas pension application packs for those countries as part of our overseas pension eligibility testing process. Information about the different payment options can be found on the Work and Income website: www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/payment-options-for-overseas-pensions.html

The table below gives numbers of current New Zealand Pension clients receiving an overseas pension paid through the Special Banking Option as at the end of June 2018.

Country of Overseas Pension	Pension		Total
	New Zealand Superannuation	Veteran's Pension	
Australia	13,681	145	13,826
Ireland	261	0	261
The Netherlands	3,376	3	3,379
United Kingdom	52,835	130	52,965
Other Countries	195	0	195
Total	70,348	278	70,626

Note:

- 'Other countries' encompasses Guernsey and Jersey.

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 with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Special Banking Option 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,



Cassandra Wise
Manager, Issues Resolution, Service Delivery