



12 OCT 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 20 September 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding beneficiaries in the Waikato region.

For clarity, your questions are addressed in turn below.

- *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?*
- *What type of benefit are they receiving?*

As at the end of June 2018, the longest time a client had been in continuous receipt of a benefit in the Waikato region was approximately 43 years. The client is receiving Supported Living Payment. The area in which the client resides 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 this individual outweighs any public interest in this information.

- *What is the benefit claimed the most?*

Statistics regarding benefit receipt nationally and by region are available from the Ministry's quarterly Benefit Fact Sheets, which are available from the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html, under the sub-heading 'Excel tables'.

- *I would also like the department to provide details of 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. Could this also please be broken down into genders?*

Please refer to the table overleaf.

Number of working age main benefit recipients in the Waikato region as at the end of June 2018, broken down by continuous duration on a benefit, and gender.

Continuous duration	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
>0-2 years	5,246	4,684	9,930
>2-5 years	3,172	1,933	5,105
>5-10 years	2,441	1,534	3,975
>10-15 years	1,298	843	2,141
>15 years	1,929	1,420	3,349

Notes:

- This table includes working age clients only (18 to 64 years of age).
- Main Benefits exclude New Zealand 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 Orphans Benefit, Unsupported Child's Benefit, New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension and non-beneficiary assistance.

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, 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



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