



17 DEC 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 15 October 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *Data on the number of people who have received the Young Parent Payment, Youth payment or similar since it was brought into effect, broken down by year, region, age of recipient, gender of recipient, whether or not they are a parent, if so, how many children they have*
2. *Data on the total cost of the Young Parent Payment, Youth Payment or similar since it was brought into effect, broken down by year, region*
3. *Average length of time an individual is on the Young Parent Payment, Youth Payment or similar, broken down by year and region, and the longest amount of time an individual has been on the Young Parent Payment, Youth Payment or similar, broken down by year and region*
4. *Data on the transitions of people coming off a Young Parent Payment, Youth Payment or similar (E.g. How many go to education, how many go to work, and how many are in full time vs part time work, how many go on to another benefit) as raw figures and percentages, broken down by year, age of recipient, and region*
5. *All reports, reviews, memos which specify the Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment in detail, conducted/produced/received by the Ministry between January 2017 and October 2019*

The Ministry continuously looks at how to improve its services for young people. The Youth Service was established in August 2012 and incorporates both the Youth Payment and the Young Parent Payment.

The Youth Payment (YP) is a payment to young people aged 16 or 17 who do not have dependent children, and are in need of financial assistance. More information about YP can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/youth-payment.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/youth-payment.html).

The Young Parent Payment (YPP) is a weekly payment for 16 to 19 year old parents who have a dependent child or children, and are in need of financial assistance. More information about YPP can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/young-parent-payment.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/young-parent-payment.html#null).

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Please find attached an Excel Spreadsheet with the following tables:

- Table One: Current YP and YPP recipients as at 30 September 2013 to 2019, by gender, age, number of children, and region
- Table Two: Weekly amount spent on YP and YPP as at 30 September 2012 to 2019, broken down by region
- Table Three: Cancellation of YP and YPP recipients during each year ending 30 September from 2013 to 2019, showing duration by gender, age, and region
- Table Four: Cancellation of YP and YPP recipients during years ending 30 September 2013 to 2019 showing cancellation reason by gender, age, and region

Please note that in the tables provided, values under five are suppressed and are represented by an 'S' in order to protect client privacy. The Ministry is unable to provide you with the exact number as releasing this information is likely to risk identifying the individuals concerned. As such, this information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The Ministry is unable to provide you with a breakdown of those who obtained full time or part time work. If this information is held by the Ministry, it will be held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

Due to limitations in reporting, the Ministry is unable to provide you with percentages where this is requested. I hope that the data provided will meet the intent of your request.

The Ministry has identified the following five reports relating to the *Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment in detail, conducted/produced/received by the Ministry between January 2017 and October 2019*:

- Youth Service and Money Management in New Zealand: Preliminary Research Findings, 11 December 2018
- REP/18/3/325 - Information on: Employment services for people with mental health conditions and the Youth Service, 2 March 2018
- Youth Service Review memo- Investment Strategy and Governance Committee (ISGC), 25 March 2019
- REP/19/05/378 - Update on the review of the Youth Service - Minister for Social Development, 26 June 2019
- REP/19/08/813 - Youth Service Pathways, 15 September 2019

Youth Service and Money Management in New Zealand: Preliminary Research Findings, was received by the Ministry in 11 December 2018, and is publicly available here:

[www.ohchr.org/documents/issues/poverty/digitaltechnology/universityaucklandappendix1.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/documents/issues/poverty/digitaltechnology/universityaucklandappendix1.pdf)

REP/18/3/325 - Information on: Employment services for people with mental health conditions and the Youth Service was released to you as part of a previous OIA response on 3 October 2018.

The final three documents are refused under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act on the basis that the information requested will soon be publicly available here:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/programmes-and-projects/youth-service.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/programmes-and-projects/youth-service.html). This information will be published in early 2020.

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 and attachments 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



Juanita Te Kani  
**General Manager Youth**