



- 5 JUL 2019

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

On 11 June and 12 June 2019, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding employment rates for disabled people and the consultation on an alternative to the Minimum Wage Exemption.

For the sake of clarity, your questions are addressed in turn.

- 1. National data on how many people with an intellectual disability have been placed in open or supported open employment in the last few years?*

The Ministry contracts with a number of providers to deliver the Employment Service.

The Employment Service provides disabled people with pre-employment assistance, job search, employment placement, employment support for the first 12 months of employment or longer if required, and time-limited in-work support for people who require assistance for career development or work-place issues. Providers are paid on the successful completion of milestones.

The Ministry is unable to provide information about the number of people with an intellectual disability placed in open or supported employment. This is because the Employment Service focuses on the impact of the disability on the person's ability to work. Two people with the same diagnosis may face very different barriers to employment. As such, your request is refused under 18(g) of the Act as the Ministry does not hold this information and there are no grounds to believe that the information is held by, or more closely connected with the function of another agency.

The Ministry can provide information about the number of people in employment by Support Level Indicator (SLI). SLI's are not based on disability type, however, they do provide an indication of the type and amount of support people need prior to gaining employment and while in employment.

Each client enrolled in the Employment Service is assigned a Support Level Indicator rating of low, medium or high by the provider. The ratings are based on the estimated number of support hours and type of support the provider will need to work with the client to get them into sustainable work or help them maintain employment.

For contracts up to 31 March 2019 SLI's were defined as:

Table One: Support Level Indicators		
Low SLI Rating	Medium SLI Rating	High SLI Rating
13 hours	26 hours	39 hours

For contracts from 1 April 2019, SLI's are defined as:

Pre-employment activities – SLI's will be based on the number of hours the provider will need to work with the client to get them into sustainable work, or return them to sustainable work

Continuous employment and in-work support activities – SLI's will be based on the predominant type of support the provider will need to support the client to remain in employment.

The pre-enrolment SLI will be reviewed at the Employment Placement, Continuous Employment and In-Work Support milestones. The SLI's are shown in the following table.

Table Two: Support Level Indicators		
Rating type	Enrolment and Pre-employment	Employment Placement, Continuous Employment and In-Work Support
Low SLI Rating	13 hours	Monthly contact – predominantly electronic (phone, text, e-mail)
Medium SLI Rating	26 hours	Fortnightly contact – predominantly face to face
High SLI Rating	39 hours	Weekly contact – predominantly face to face and facilitation between client, employer and Provider

An initial SLI rating will be assigned to each client during the Enrolment and Pre-employment phase and recorded in the Ministry's system. SLI ratings may be changed at the Employment and/or Continuous Employment milestone stages to reflect the level of support required.

The following table shows the number of people enrolled in the Employment Service who are currently working by SLI rating.

Table Three: Employment Service Clients in Employment by SLI rating as at 24 June 2019						
Low		Medium		High		Total Clients
Number of clients	percentage of all clients	Number of clients	percentage of all clients	Number of clients	percentage of all clients	
5,866	32%	7,967	44%	4,283	24%	18,116

2. *The macro summary output without your conclusions*
3. *The raw results out of the app*

Options being reviewed as an alternative to the Minimum Wage Exemption are still being considered and final decisions are yet to be made. In accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act, I am not able to provide any information in response to your request for the raw results of the app and the summary output as

releasing the details at this stage is likely to prejudice the ability of the government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Minimum Wage Exemption, 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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