



16 SEP 2019



On 8 August 2019 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information relating to the Minimum Wage Exemption (WME).

For the sake of clarity your questions are addressed in turn:

- 1. Historic data for the last three years on how clients (being 18116 for the period ending 24 June 2019) receiving the Employment service/support (irrespective of rating type) actually gained open employment in that period either as a single number or % of the total.*

The Employment Service is an outcomes-based service which assists anyone who is eligible and wants to engage, regardless of their disability type and its impact on their ability to work. Providers receive outcome payments if people are still in work at three, six, nine and twelve-months post placement.

I can advise that as at August 2019 there were 19,848 clients enrolled in the Employment Service over the last three years. Of this number, 5,687 clients were placed into employment through the Employment Service. Please note this information relates specifically to the Employment Service and is pulled from the Service Outcome Reporting Tool (SORT). This is point in time information, as is accurate as at August 2019.

- 2. Are you including all the responses on the subject of the MWEP proposals when you publish 'this letter'? If so, can you advise when you anticipate to publish the responses?*

The Ministry periodically publishes their responses to requests made under the Official Information Act on the Ministry's website. All responses are published unless there is a good reason not to, for example if there is a significant amount of personal information. The Ministry has not recently responded to any other individuals on the topic of Minimum Wage Exemptions. I can advise that the Ministry has only responded to requests regarding the Minimum Wage Exemption proposals from yourself this year.

You can read the responses provided by the Ministry from 2016 to 2019 here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/responses-to-official-information-act-requests.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/official-information-responses/responses-to-official-information-act-requests.html).

The Ministry intends to proactively release the Minimum Wage Exemption Cabinet Paper once the recommendations have been considered by the Government. The Cabinet Paper will be available at the following website: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/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 regarding the Employment Service, 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



Kelvin Moffatt

**General Manager, Service and Contracts Management**