



21 APR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 25 February 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act (the Act) 1982, the following information:

- *The number of people receiving the disability welfare, who have a primary diagnosis of cystic fibrosis*
- *The number of people receiving other forms of welfare, who have a primary diagnosis of cystic fibrosis*
- *The total cost of disability welfare, for this group (or if not available the total cost of all disability welfare payments)*

You were advised on 26 February 2020 that the Ministry is unable to provide you with a response within a two-week timeframe, as requested. This is because the Ministry does not hold standard reporting on this level of disability information and your request would therefore need to go through a process under the Act.

The Ministry works with clients to understand their circumstances, and the circumstances of their families to ensure that every individual is receiving their full and correct entitlements.

There is a range of assistance available to people with medical conditions. Further information on the types of assistance available, as well as eligibility criteria, can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/health-and-disability-practitioners/health-and-disability-related-benefits.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/health-and-disability-practitioners/health-and-disability-related-benefits.html).

Please see overleaf Table One which shows the number of working age clients with a primary health condition of Cystic Fibrosis as at December 2019, broken down by main benefit, supplement type and the amount granted.

**Table One: The number of working age clients with a primary health condition of Cystic Fibrosis as at December 2019, broken down by main benefit, supplement type and the amount granted.**

| Benefit   | Received Disability Allowance |     | Received Accommodation Supplement |     | Received Temporary Additional Support |     | Total Weekly Amount |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------|-----|---------------------|
|   | No                            | Yes | No                                | Yes | No                                    | Yes |                     |
| Supported Living Payment Overseas                         | S                             | 0   | S                                 | 0   | S                                     | 0   | \$276.91            |
| Supported Living Payment                                  | 13                            | 28  | 18                                | 23  | 34                                    | 7   | \$15,091.91         |
| Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury and Disability | S                             | S   | 0                                 | S   | S                                     | 0   | \$649.38            |

**Notes:**

- The table includes working age clients only (18 to 64 years).
- The Total Weekly Amount includes all main benefits and supplements paid as at December 2019.
- The primary health condition of a client is identified on the medical certificate the client supplied to Work and Income. A client can have more than one health condition.

Please note that figures lower than six are suppressed under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The Ministry only records a diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis when assessing clients' work capacity to determine eligibility for Supported Living Payment (SLP) or Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability (JS HCID). For the purposes of administering other forms of assistance, such as the Disability Allowance (DA), the Ministry records medical conditions as incapacity groups that include a large number of medical conditions grouped together.

As such, the Ministry is unable to provide the costs of assistance related to Cystic Fibrosis for clients who receive other main benefits such as, New Zealand Superannuation (NZS), or non-beneficiary assistance as this information is held on individual clients' files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files.

With regard to the Child Disability Allowance (CDA), a child's diagnosis is noted in the medical certificate by the client's health practitioner, which is then filed in their individual client file. The Ministry does not record information specific to Cystic Fibrosis for CDA, and in order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would also have to manually review thousands of files.

Similarly, the Temporary Additional Support (TAS) rates of payment is calculated using the deficiency of income and is not directly related to any costs. TAS payments may contribute to costs related to Cystic Fibrosis, however this information is 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.

You can find out more about TAS and the amount that the client's standard costs exceed a persons' disposable income on the Work and Income website at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/deficiency-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/temporary-additional-support/deficiency-01.html).

Therefore, I have refused these aspects of your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act as it would require substantial manual collation in order to provide you with this information. 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 these aspects of 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.

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. 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 welfare support for clients with a primary diagnosis of Cystic Fibrosis, 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

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Bridget Saunders

**Manager Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**