



21 AUG 2020

Dear

On 23 July 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Benefit numbers, broken down by month, age, ethnicity, and grants vs cancels by month, for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres.*

As you have previously been provided with statistics from July 2019 to May 2020, the Ministry has interpreted your request as relating to data regarding May, June and July 2020.

Please find attached Appendix One, with the following tables in response to your request:

- Table One: Main benefit numbers of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre and month, for the period May, June and July 2020.
- Table Two: Main benefit numbers of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre, month and age group, for the period May, June and July 2020.
- Table Three: Main benefit numbers of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre, month and ethnicity, for the period May, June and July 2020.
- Table Four: Number of main benefit grants and cancels of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre and month, for the period May, June and July 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
- 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. 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 regarding main benefit statistics for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bridget Saunders', with a large, stylized initial 'B' and a long horizontal stroke.

Bridget Saunders  
**Manager, Issue Resolution  
Service Delivery**

## Appendix One

**Table One: Main benefit numbers of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre and month, for the months May, June and July 2020.**

Service Centre	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020
Greymouth	1,815	1,829	1,818
Westport	1,041	1,065	1,082
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,856</b>	<b>2,894</b>	<b>2,900</b>

**Table Two: Main benefit numbers of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre, month and age group, for the months May, June and July 2020.**

Age Group	Greymouth			Westport		
	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020
18-19	69	70	70	30	28	24
20-24	195	187	173	65	72	74
25-29	206	213	214	106	113	110
30-34	169	175	178	87	89	89
35-39	149	152	141	73	80	79
40-44	131	128	130	82	85	88
45-49	192	184	188	114	111	112
50-54	196	212	207	140	143	146
55-59	233	229	235	178	179	188
60-64	275	279	282	166	165	172

**Table Three: Main benefit numbers of working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre, month and ethnicity, for the months May, June and July 2020.**

Ethnic Group	Greymouth			Westport		
	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020
Māori	331	325	318	166	179	183
Pacific Peoples	7	7	7	6	6	S
NZ European	1,290	1,299	1,299	751	764	774
Other	65	71	71	41	38	S
Unspecified	122	127	123	77	78	79

**Table Four: Number of main benefit grants and cancellations for working age clients for the Greymouth and Westport Service Centres, broken down by service centre and month, for the months May, June and July 2020.**

Service Centre	May 2020		June 2020		July 2020	
	Grant	Cancel	Grant	Cancel	Grant	Cancel
Greymouth	56	54	81	97	90	65
Westport	44	41	56	34	47	26

**Notes:**

- The tables include working age clients only (18 to 64 years).
- Service centre is based on the Work and Income site where the application was processed.
- Main benefits exclude New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension, Non-Beneficiary assistance, Orphan's Benefit and Unsupported Child's Benefit.
- In order to protect client privacy, some values are suppressed and are represented by 'S'. 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 the information.
- Regarding Table Three: The ethnicity classification that is used to construct this table does not necessarily align with the current Statistics New Zealand classification of ethnicity. Ethnicity details recorded by the Ministry have been gathered under a variety of classification methods as clients come into contact with the Ministry. The ethnicity data may be self-identified based on an individual's preference or self-construct. While the Ministry collects multiple ethnicities from clients, we only report a unique form of 'identified' ethnicity for core benefit data (one ethnic group per person with Māori coming first, Pacific groups second followed by other groups ending with NZ European).
- Regarding Table Four: The table represents a count of grants and cancellations, not a count of clients. A client may have more than one grant or cancellation in the period.