



5 FEB 2020

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

On 17 December 2019, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- Documentation which states that MSD cannot pay New Zealand superannuation on any day different to the ones that they publish at the beginning of the year. And furthermore, any documentation that states MSD may pay New Zealand superannuation on a different day where the normal superannuation payment day falls on a public holiday.

The Ministry is required to pay clients on business working days, this is because if there is an issue with payments the client is able to access the Ministry or the bank. If benefit payment falls on a public holiday, the Ministry will make a payment the day before. Banks do not process payments on a public holiday.

In response to your request, the Ministry does not have documentation that states that the Ministry cannot pay New Zealand Superannuation on any day different to the ones published at the beginning of the year. The Ministry also does not hold any documentation that states the Ministry may pay New Zealand Superannuation on a different day where the normal superannuation payment day falls on a public holiday.

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

We understand that you would have liked the payday for New Zealand Superannuation on 24 December 2019 to have been advanced.

As advised above, the only time the Ministry can advance New Zealand Superannuation payments is if the New Zealand Superannuation payments actually fall on a public holiday. In December 2019 they did not, so the dates of payment were unaffected. Neither was there any change to payment dates over the New Year period. With electronic banking, most banks make the payments available the night before the payday on a regular basis.

Each year the payment dates are published on our website well in advance so there is time to plan. Superannuitants value the security and certainty of the dates so that they can plan for special times in advance. The paydays for 2020 are already available at these links:

www.govt.nz/browse/tax-benefits-and-finance/new-zealand-superannuation-and-the-veterans-pension/nz-super-payment-dates/ and

www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/seniors/superannuation/payment-dates.html.

A hard copy can be printed for ease of reference.

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. 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 payment dates for New Zealand Superannuation, 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.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'K' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small loop.

Kate Satterthwaite
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services