



20 FEB 2020

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email dated 25 January 2020 to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following:

1. *Information and clarification, as to whether someone on bail or sentence can apply for, and be approved for, a benefit. If there is a difference, I would be grateful if it could be noted what the policy is for someone on:*
  - a. *24-hour unmonitored bail;*
  - b. *24-hour electronically monitored (EM) bail;*
  - c. *24-hour EM bail with exceptions, such as to go shopping; and*
  - d. *Anything other than 24-hour EM bail, such as with a 7pm to 7am curfew.*
2. *What is the policy for someone sentenced to:*
  - a. *Home Detention (often a 24-hour curfew); and*
  - b. *Community Detention (often a 7pm to 7am curfew).*
3. *If any examples I have noted above are eligible for a benefit, I would be grateful if the policy could be provided.*

The Ministry does not have a benefit specific to people with court-imposed conditions. Eligibility to a main benefit such as Job Seeker Support, Supported Living Payment or Sole Parent Support is based on individual circumstances. You can find more information about the eligibility criteria for main benefits on our website at: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/index.html>

The court-imposed conditions may affect their ability to meet any work obligations attached to the main benefit they qualify for. In some cases, a full or partial exemption from meeting some or all their work or work preparation obligations may be applied. The following link provides you with further information about this: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/court-imposed-conditions-01.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. 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 information on benefit eligibility for someone on bail or sentence, 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 blue ink, appearing to be 'K. Satterthwaite', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Satterthwaite  
**General Manager Ministerial & Executive Services**