



**27 OCT 2020**

Tēnā koe

On 27 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information between 27 March 2020 and 18 September 2020:

- 1. How many grants of Jobseeker Work Ready were made to people who had lost employment?*
- 2. How many grants of Jobseeker Health Condition or Disability were made to people who had lost employment?*
- 3. How many grants of Covid-19 Income Relief Payment were made to people who had lost employment?*
- 4. How many grants of Youth/Young Parent Payment were made to people who had lost employment?*
- 5. How many grants of other main benefits were made to people who had lost employment?*

On 2 October 2020, you informed the Ministry that you were happy to receive data for clients who required a benefit for the reason of 'Ceased Work'. Additionally, you informed the Ministry that you were happy to receive the data from the March, June and September 2020 quarters, because that best captured the timeframe you were after.

Jobseeker Support (JS) is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. JS Work Ready grants, however, refer solely to those JS clients who are available for and seeking full-time employment. JS Health Condition or Disability grants refer solely to those JS clients who have a health condition, injury or disability. The client must meet certain medical qualifications.

More information about the eligibility criteria for Jobseeker Support can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/qualifications.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/qualifications.html).

In regard to questions one, two and five, please find the following attached to this response in Appendix One:

- **Table One:** The number of working-age main benefits granted for the reason 'Ceased Work' during the quarters ending March, June and September 2020

Please note, in regard to question five, the 'Other Main Benefits' included in **Table One** are the Emergency Benefit, Emergency Maintenance Allowances, Jobseeker Support Student Hardship, Supported Living Payment, Sole Parent Support. More information about each of these benefits can be found on Work and Income's A-Z

benefits and payments page on their website. This can be found at the following link: [workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html](http://workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/index.html).

In regard to question three, on 25 May 2020, the Government announced a new temporary payment called the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP) to support New Zealanders who lost their jobs due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The CIRP was made available for 12 weeks from 8 June 2020, to anyone who had lost their job due to the impact of COVID-19 since 1 March 2020. It paid \$490 per week to those who lost full-time work and \$250 per week for those who lost part-time work.

If a New Zealander ceased their employment (including self-employment) from 1 March 2020 to 30 October 2020 due to COVID-19, they could apply for a CIRP from 8 June 2020. Therefore, the Ministry is unable to provide you with CIRP data for the March 2020 quarter. Furthermore, your request for this information is declined under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act, as it does not exist.

On 2 October 2020, the Ministry informed you that the Ministry only granted New Zealanders a CIRP if they 'Ceased Work'. More information and data about the CIRP is publicly available online at the following link: [msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/index.html](http://msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/index.html).

However, to be helpful, the Ministry has provided the following CIRP data broken down by the June and September 2020 quarters, as the information publicly available on the website is broken down by week and month. Please find the following table attached to this response in Appendix One:

- **Table Two:** The number of COVID-19 Income Relief Payments granted during the quarters ending June 2020 and September 2020

Finally, in regard to question four, the Youth Payment is for 16 and 17-year-old young people who have no dependent children and are either not being supported by their parent or are, or have been, married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship. More information about the eligibility criteria for the Youth Payment can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/youth-payment/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/youth-payment/introduction.html).

The Young Parent Payment is a benefit for 16 to 19-year-old young people who have a dependent child or children and are either single or are, or have been, married, in a civil union, or in a de facto relationship. More information about the eligibility criteria for the Youth Payment can be found here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/young-parent-payment/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/youth-service/young-parent-payment/introduction.html).

The following data table can be found in attached to this response in Appendix One:

- **Table Three:** The number of Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment applications granted for the reason 'Ceased Work' during the quarters ending March, June and September 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 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 main benefits and the CIRP, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



Bridget Saunders  
**Manager, Issue Resolution  
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## Appendix One

**Table One: The number of working-age main benefits granted for the reason 'Ceased Work' during the quarters ending March, June and September 2020**

Quarter Ending	Emergency Benefit	Emergency Maintenance Allowance	Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury of Disability	Jobseeker Support Work Ready	Jobseeker Support Student Hardship	Supported Living Payment	Sole Parent Support	Total
March 2020	482	23	539	12,002	76	339	1,889	<b>15,350</b>
June 2020	670	19	354	23,983	16	213	1,918	<b>27,173</b>
September 2020	497	15	475	12,119	11	276	1,530	<b>14,923</b>

**Notes for Table One:**

- This is a count of applications granted, not a count of clients.
- "Ceased Work" covers those who have lost their jobs, those who have left voluntarily and those who were on fixed term or seasonal work.
- A client may have more than one application granted in each period.
- The working-age is 18 to 64.
- 'Jobseeker Work Ready' also includes Jobseeker Support Work Ready Hardship.
- 'Jobseeker Health Condition, Injury of Disability' also includes Jobseeker Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.

**Table Two: The number of COVID-19 Income Relief Payments granted during the quarters ending June 2020 and September 2020**

Quarter Ending	COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Grants
June 2020	12,589
September 2020	22,727

**Notes for Table Two:**

- This is a count of grants, not a count of clients.
- A client may have more than one grant in a period.
- Clients could apply for the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment from 8 June 2020

**Table Three: The number of Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment applications granted for the reason 'Ceased Work' during the quarters ending March, June and September 2020**

<b>Quarter Ending</b>	<b>Youth Payment and Young Parent Grants</b>
March 2020	32
June 2020	51
September 2020	45

**Notes for Table Three:**

- "Ceased Work" covers those who have lost their jobs, those who have left voluntarily and those who were on fixed term or seasonal work.
- This is a count of grants, not a count of clients.
- A client may have more than one grant in a period.