



25 SEP 2020

Dear

On 2 September 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The definition of 'revenue' used by the Ministry in the context of COVID-19 Wage Subsidy applications.*

For the purposes of determining a decline in revenue when applying for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy, the Ministry defines revenue as the total amount of money a business has earned from its normal activities before expenses are deducted. The Ministry defines revenue broadly to allow businesses to determine the method for calculation that reflects their usual practice.

This definition reiterates that the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy ran on a high-trust model with payments made to applicants as quickly as possible to ensure support for those suffering the immediate economic impacts of COVID-19.

It should be noted that applications for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy and Wage Subsidy Extension closed on 3 September 2020.

This definition can also be found at the following website: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/who-can-get-it.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/who-can-get-it.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
- 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 the definition of revenue used by the Ministry for COVID-19 Wage Subsidy applications, 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 that reads "M Beecroft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Beecroft  
**Policy Manager**  
**Employment Policy**