



8 APR 2021

Tēnā koe

On 9 March 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development's (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many people in the Queenstown Lakes District have been granted a \$5k to Work grant from Work and Income in the last 12 months and two years and if so the total amounts granted.*

The \$5k to Work initiative is an incentive payment that supports clients who are relocating to take up work in a region or area that is not commutable. This initiative was previously known as \$3k to Work and was introduced to help jobseekers move into sustainable employment following the Christchurch Earthquake. It was intended to support the Christchurch rebuild, and was originally limited to the Christchurch region.

The initiative was expanded across New Zealand in 2015. On 1 October 2020, the initiative was increased by \$2,000 and the eligibility criteria was expanded to support more clients to relocate. It is now known as the '\$5k to Work'.

More information about the \$5k to Work initiative, including the eligibility criteria, can be found on the Ministry's website here: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/5k-to-work.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/5k-to-work.html#null)

In regard to your request, please find **Table One** enclosed as **Appendix A** showing the number and amount of 3k/5k to Work grants in the Queenstown Lakes District, for the calendar years 2019 and 2020. This also includes the figures for January and February 2021.

You may note an uptake in the initiative for the calendar year 2020. The Ministry is acutely aware of the increased numbers of New Zealanders without jobs because of the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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 to your request for information regarding the 5k to Work initiative, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JR', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Jayne Russell  
**Group General Manager  
Employment**

## Appendix A

**Table One: Number of \$3K/\$5K to Work grants for the Queenstown Lakes District for the calendar years 2019 and 2020, and the period of January to February 2021, broken down by grant**

Grant date (year)	Payment project description			
	\$3K to Christchurch / \$3K to Work		\$5k to Work	
	Number of grants	Total granted amount	Number of grants	Total granted amount
<b>2019</b>	6	\$21,000	0	0
<b>2020</b>	12	\$33,000	12	\$60,000
<b>January-February 2021</b>	0	0	9	\$55,000

### Notes:

- \$5k to Work is an 'incentive payment' to assist clients who have secured sustainable employment to relocate.
- The \$5k to Work incentive payment is a non-taxable payment of \$5,000 and is not asset or income tested.
- A client cannot get more than one \$5k to Work payment within a 52-week period.
- \$5K to Work grant came into effect from 1 October 2020.
- Client location has been determined from address data held by the Ministry as at time of grant.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table. A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three. The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals. The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.