



29 APR 2021

Tēnā koe

On 29 March 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Before 1 April 1992, there was a "Accommodation Benefit" which was paid to those that were renting privately. Could you please provide detailed information on this payment, ie payment rates, eligibility criteria, etc.*

The Ministry has published a Social Assistance Chronology which started out as a historical list of policy changes to the social security system, however, over time it has expanded to include changes to social security benefits, war pensions, retirement pensions, taxation measures, family assistance, child welfare, housing, student support and labour market programmes.

More information on the Social Assistance Chronology, including information on the Accommodation Benefit prior to 1992, can be found on the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/about-msd/history/social-assistance-chronology-programme-history.html.

As the information you have requested is publicly available on the Ministry's website, your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act.

As mentioned on the Ministry's website, we intend to update the Social Assistance Chronology to record future developments in social assistance programmes and to correct errors or omissions. If you have suggested corrections or additions, please feel free to contact me directly at ^{g(2)(a)} [REDACTED]

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.

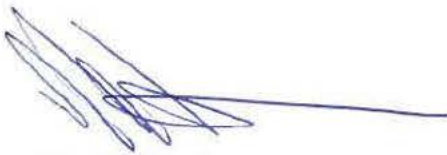
This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your 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 the accommodation benefit prior to 1992, 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 noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alex McKenzie', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alex McKenzie
Policy Manager
Employment and Housing Policy