



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

21 December 2021

Tēnā koe

On 8 November, you emailed the Treasury requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information regarding all costs to New Zealand's tax-funded spending associated with the Alert Level restrictions that commenced on 17 August 2021, including but not limited to:

1. *Wage subsidies, and*
2. *Resurgence relief, and*
3. *Costs of additional testing and vaccination drives beyond those excluded above, i.e. drives such as the "super-Saturday", Eden Park activities, the Maori focus, and the various buses cruising around as mobile vaccine centres, and*
4. *Costs of operating boundaries between Alert Level regions / areas, especially the Auckland boundary, and*
5. *Costs to the DHBs for health care provided to the Covid-positive patients, including HDU and ICU, and*
6. *Costs of MIQ for Covid-positive community (not border) cases being housed in these facilities, and*
7. *Costs of Police running around chasing and catching MIQ escapees, and*
8. *Costs to Police, justice, and other government bodies attending to Auckland escapees such as the two who visited Northland, the two who visited Wanaka, and the various others who distributed themselves around the country, and*
9. *Costs of the contact tracing teams, and*
10. *Costs of those operating and managing the various call centres / websites / etc. in place as a result of Covid-19, and*
11. *Costs of the food packages distributed, and*
12. *Costs of the incentives / bribes, music, food, and other draw-cards at testing and vaccination centres implemented to entice people to get tested and vaccinated, and*
13. *The cost of travel for the various government officials, including the Prime Minister, to attend to Covid-related activities such as vaccination encouragement around the country, and*

14. *The personal income tax revenue lost due to workers' reduced remuneration, and*
15. *The personal income tax revenue lost due to job losses, and*
16. *The company tax revenue lost due to the loss of trading revenue for those companies, and*
17. *The company tax revenue lost due to companies closing their operations, and*
18. *The GST revenue lost due to the loss of trading experienced by all goods and services providers, and*
19. *The revenue lost on the diverse collection of taxes of fuel that was not purchased due to people not going to work, and*
20. *The revenue lost on the Auckland Fuel Tax (regardless of how you may choose to identify it) on the fuel that was not purchased due to people not going to work, and*
21. *The tax revenue lost on the sale of domestic airline tickets, domestic cruise tickets (including the out-and-back "cruises to nowhere) that were not purchased due to domestic travel being obstructed, especially involving Auckland, and*
22. *The tax revenue lost on each other tax type not specifically listed above that was adversely affected by the Covid response over this period.*

On 24 November 2021, question eleven of your request was transferred from the Treasury to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) for response because the information was more closely related to our functions and responsibilities.

As at 18 November 2021, the Ministry has allocated \$18.2 million for access to food since 17 August 2021. This funding increased the capacity of foodbanks, food rescue and community food organisations and marae to meet the increased demand for food support. Much of this support was targeted specifically at Auckland.

You can find out about the range of support available for individuals, families, employers and self-employed people affected by COVID-19 on the Ministry's website at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/index.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'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, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'S. Curtis'.

Serena Curtis
General Manager
Pacific and Community Capability Programmes

