



10 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 14 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *I would like to know how many Food Bags were distributed to clients on the NZ superannuation benefit from January 2018-January 2021.*

The Ministry worked with My Food Bag Ltd as part of a pilot in Auckland to explore the need for, and potential benefits of a Bargain Box Emergency Food Kit option for people receiving government support. As part of this pilot, people applying for food grants through a Special Needs Grant were able to choose to receive a Bargain Box Emergency Food Kit instead of or alongside a monetary grant.

The My Food Bag Ltd pilot was initially going to be run from September to November 2019, however the actual trial period ran between October 2019 to February 2020.

The Ministry can confirm that from October 2019 to February 2020, 42 Bargain Box Emergency Food Kits were provided to clients who were receiving New Zealand Superannuation.

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.

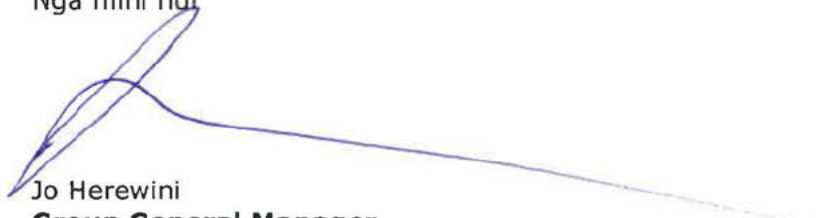
This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

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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 number of superannuitants who received a My Food Bag, Bargain Box, 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 blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jo Herewini  
**Group General Manager**  
**Planning and Change**