



18 JUN 2021

Tēnā koe

On 4 May 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many jobs placements in silviculture for the 1BT program MSD has made please? Since 1BT commenced – how many MSD clients have been placed in a job created by 1BT*

On 1 June 2021, the Ministry contacted you advising that more time was required due to consultations still taking place. You were advised that a response would be with you on or before 18 June 2021.

A Ministry for Primary Industries initiative, the One Billion Trees programme aims to increase tree planting across New Zealand. The goal is to double the current planting rate to reach one billion additional trees planted by 2028. The programme has the potential to deliver huge benefits for our environment, our people, our communities, and our economy. The focus is on making it easier to plant the right tree, in the right place, for the right purpose.

More information about the One Billion Trees programme, including monitoring and evaluation reports, can be found on MPI's website, here: www.mpi.govt.nz/forestry/funding-tree-planting-research/one-billion-trees-programme/

The Ministry worked with MPI, the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment's Labour Expectorate, the Forestry Industry Contractors Association (FICA), and individual contractors to support the labour needs of the 2019 planting season. The engagement campaign, which started on 1 April 2019, encouraged employers to list vacancies through local Work and Income work brokers and Job Connect, and saw the creation of a silviculture listing on the Ministry's Work the Seasons website. More recently, the Ministry entered a contract with FICA that resulted, in the 2020 planting season, in the placement of 260 people into jobs in the silviculture sector. A current contract with FICA will see 250 placements in the 2021 season.

The Ministry also has several products and services that have supported employment in many industries, including silviculture. The full range of employment support offered by the Ministry (e.g. Mani in Mahi, Flexi-wage etc.) can be viewed on the Connected website, here: www.connected.govt.nz/.

In response to your request, we can advise that the Ministry does not centrally record the number of clients that have been placed in jobs related to or created as a result of

the One Billion Trees programme or any associated initiatives. That information, if it existed, would be held on individual client files. As such, I'm refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, on the ground that it would require substantial manual collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public sector.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

In the spirit of being helpful, however, the Ministry has provided you with Table 1 below, which shows the number of clients that the Ministry has placed into jobs in the *forestry* industry since January 2017. Please note, however, that not all of these forestry placements refer to jobs in silviculture or were the result of initiatives directly related to the One Billion Trees programme.

Table One: The number of client placements in jobs in the forestry industry from 1 January 2017 to 31 March 2021, broken down by quarter and industry details.

Quarter ending	Industry Details				Total
	Forestry	Forestry Support Services	Log Sawmilling	Logging	
March 2017	33	9	6	3	51
June 2017	69	9	12	6	96
September 2017	42	12	15	6	75
December 2017	36	3	12	3	51
March 2018	45	9	18	6	75
June 2018	81	27	18	9	132
September 2018	48	15	9	9	78
December 2018	36	3	18	3	60
March 2019	57	21	6	3	93
June 2019	105	48	15	6	174
September 2019	57	33	21	6	117
December 2019	39	6	12	6	63
March 2020	48	12	15	6	78
June 2020	96	42	6	3	147
September 2020	93	42	21	27	180
December 2020	69	33	27	15	144
March 2021	66	18	36	12	135
Total	1,017	342	261	135	1,752

Notes:

- This is a table of job placements not clients, and the same client may have had more than one placement in the period.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development 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.

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, 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



PP.

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**