



29 MAR 2021

On 19 February 2021, you emailed the Minister of Finance, Hon Grant Robertson, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Could you please tell us the names of the major companies who received the 2020 wage subsidy, which have repaid the money, and which are still outstanding?

On 19 February 2021, you were advised that your request was passed on to the Minister for Social Development, Hon Carmel Sepuloni, for her consideration and response. On this day, you were also advised that this was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), as the request more closely aligns with the operational functions of the Ministry.

The COVID-19 Wage Subsidy has enabled rapid support for thousands of New Zealand businesses during this time of uncertainty and has ensured that employees were able to remain connected with their employers during the COVID-19 lockdown. The scheme has been set up on a high-trust model, in order to quickly deliver funds to support workers, families, and businesses.

As part of the Wage Subsidy application process, businesses were required to sign a declaration that they had met the scheme's eligibility criteria. The declarations are extensive and include an agreement that details in the application may be verified with other agencies, obligations in terms of the use of the subsidy, and consequences of non-compliance.

The current eligibility requirements for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy are available on the Work and Income website, and can be accessed at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/who-can-get-it.html.

As part of the application, businesses were required to sign a declaration that they had met the scheme's eligibility criteria. The declarations are extensive and include agreement that details in the application may be verified with other agencies, obligations in terms of use of the subsidy, and consequences of non-compliance.

The Wage Subsidy was modified on 27 March 2020 to ensure employers are passing on the full subsidies to workers. As a result, the Employment Declaration changed.

The different versions of the Wage Subsidy declarations are publicly available, and can be found on the Ministry's website at the following links:

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- www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/covid-19/declaration-wage-subsidy.html (for the original Wage Subsidy on or after 4pm 27 March 2020).
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/covid-19/wage-subsidy-declaration.html (for the original Wage Subsidy before 4pm 27 March 2020).
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/covid-19/declaration-wage-subsidy-extension.html.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/covid-19/declaration-resurgence-wage-subsidy.html.

Please find **Table One** enclosed in **Appendix A**, which outlines the top 30 employers that received a Wage Subsidy payment, the total amount they were paid, the total amount they repaid and the balance, as at the end of January 2021.

As mentioned, the Wage Subsidy Scheme was set up on a high-trust model. Even though employers have repaid money to the Ministry, it does not mean they did not follow the rules. We have found that, in most cases, employers are doing the right thing. In many cases where entitlements have been wrongly claimed, it is due to uncertainty about the eligibility criteria rather than deliberate attempts at deception.

The Ministry informed employers that they could apply for the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy if they thought they would have a financial downturn as a result of the pandemic. If they did not experience a significant downturn, then they were informed that they would need to repay the money. More information about these obligations can be found in the Employer Declarations Links noted on this page.

You can find further details regarding when an employer needs to repay some or all of the 2020 COVID-19 Wage Subsidy at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/2020-wage-subsidy/repayments.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
- 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 regarding major companies to receive the Wage Subsidy, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

George Van Ooyen
**Group General Manager, Client Service Support
Service Delivery**

Appendix A

Table One: List of top 30 employers that received a Wage Subsidy payment, the total amount they were paid, the total amount they repaid and the balance, as at end of January 2021.

Employer name	Total amount paid	Total amount repaid	Balance
Air New Zealand Limited	\$116,807,850.00	\$3,802,657.07	\$113,005,192.93
Fletcher Building Holdings Limited	\$67,690,747.20	\$0.00	\$67,690,747.20
The Warehouse Limited	\$52,006,833.60	\$51,988,574.40	\$18,259.20
Silver Fern Farms Limited	\$43,259,803.20	\$39,925,429.60	\$3,334,373.60
Downer New Zealand Limited	\$38,232,218.40	\$193,045.16	\$38,039,173.24
Alliance Group Limited	\$34,386,456.00	\$21,523,830.85	\$12,862,625.15
Fulton Hogan Limited	\$34,254,796.80	\$939,666.41	\$33,315,130.39
Sky City Management Limited	\$31,213,119.20	\$114,482.30	\$31,098,636.90
New Zealand Post Limited	\$29,728,281.60	\$165,463.29	\$29,562,818.31
Spotless Facility Services (NZ) Limited	\$28,727,227.60	\$0.00	\$28,727,227.60
The Farmers Trading Company Limited	\$28,093,578.00	\$54,549.20	\$28,039,028.80
Bunnings Limited	\$27,209,073.60	\$0.00	\$27,209,073.60
Kiwirail Holdings Limited	\$26,394,333.60	\$82,896.00	\$26,311,437.60
Best Start Educare Limited	\$25,647,384.00	\$924,367.00	\$24,723,017.00
Awf Limited	\$24,861,418.40	\$1,531,309.20	\$23,330,109.20
OCS Limited	\$24,447,044.80	\$1,639,178.40	\$22,807,866.40
Restaurant Brands Limited	\$22,198,264.80	\$108,060.00	\$22,090,204.80
Compass Group New Zealand Limited	\$15,970,636.00	\$293,517.60	\$15,677,118.40
Beca Consolidated Group	\$15,873,585.60	\$15,866,556.00	\$7,029.60
Bidfood Limited	\$14,319,105.60	\$109,473.14	\$14,209,632.46
Harvey Norman Stores (NZ) Pty Limited	\$12,714,681.60	\$7,029.60	\$12,707,652.00
Adecco Personnel Limited	\$12,234,055.20	\$0.00	\$12,234,055.20
Noel Leeming Group Limited	\$12,097,655.20	\$12,092,968.80	\$4,686.40
Kmart NZ Holdings Ltd	\$11,977,440.00	\$0.00	\$11,977,440.00
Antares Restaurant Group Limited	\$11,483,616.00	\$0.00	\$11,483,616.00
Regional Facilities Auckland Trust	\$11,476,960.80	\$35,769.33	\$11,441,191.47
Flight Centre (NZ) Limited	\$11,200,310.00	\$20,649.91	\$11,179,660.09
Waste Management NZ Limited	\$10,982,709.60	\$0.00	\$10,982,709.60
Oji Fibre Solutions (NZ) Ltd	\$10,296,904.80	\$0.00	\$10,296,904.80
Lsg Sky Chefs New Zealand Limited	\$10,132,096.40	\$0.00	\$10,132,096.40

Notes:

- Wage Subsidy payments include the original Wage Subsidy, the Wage Subsidy Extension, and the Resurgence Wage Subsidy.
- Please note, some repayments were voluntarily, whereas some repayments were requested by the Ministry of Social Development.