



12 November 2021

Tēnā koe

On 20 October 2021, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- Following Cabinet's authorisation of \$1 million from the Covid-19 response and recovery fund to be used by MSD to evaluate WSS, how much has been spent and what has it been spent on?

The release of funding from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund for the purpose of evaluating the Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSS) was authorised by the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment at the beginning of August, following significant work to prepare an evaluation work programme.

This work involves multiple agencies which have all been involved in the procurement process to select external suppliers with appropriate skillsets, who will be responsible for different components of the evaluation. Contracts are currently being finalised with these suppliers. This is a complex piece of work and it is important that it is done well. The Ministry have adhered to the New Zealand Government Procurement Rules to ensure an inclusive, transparent, and sustainable procurement process is being followed.

In regard to the \$1 million for the WSS evaluation, to date the Ministry has spent \$38,880 with a breakdown as follows:

Cost description	Amount
Project management support for WSS evaluation	\$17,280
External Steering group member (Deloitte) for WSS evaluation	\$21,600
Total	\$38,880

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 regarding the COVID-19 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.

Ngā mihi nui



Rachel Skeates-Millar
General Manager
Research and Evaluation