



8 August 2022

Tēnā koe

On 11 July 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of people who have applied for an International Custody Dispute Payment (broken down by gender and year if possible)*
- *The number of people who were given an International Custody Dispute Payment (broken down by gender and year if possible)*
- *How much money has been paid under the International Custody Dispute Payment scheme*
- *If monetary figures can't be provided, can you tell me the average International Custody Dispute Payment rate, per week.*
- *The countries applicants were applying from*

I would like the information from January 1, 2010, to present please.

The International Custody Dispute Payment is a non-recoverable payment Special Needs Grant (SNG). It is paid to a parent who is awaiting the outcome of an international custody dispute, has no other means of support (such as work, support from their government or family, or other support from New Zealand) and is facing financial hardship.

More information on the International Custody Dispute Payment can be found at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/international-custody-dispute-payment-sng.html.

Over the period 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2022, there have been 39 people who have received the International Custody Dispute Payment.

Please see attached the following two tables in the enclosed **Appendix**:

- **Table One:** The number of applications received for International Custody Dispute Payment during the period 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2022, broken down by year and gender.

- **Table Two:** The number of applications granted for International Custody Dispute Payment during the period 1 January 2010 and 30 June 2022.

You also asked for information on the countries applicants were applying from.

In order to provide you with this information, due to the low numbers of 39 applicants, identifying the applicants by country, may potentially lead to individuals being identified. Accordingly, this part of your request is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

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 and attachment 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 about the International Custody Dispute Payment, 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

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**