



19 August 2022

Tēnā koe

On 8 August 2022, your request was transferred from the office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please can you advise the numbers of individual beneficiaries who continued to receive ongoing support while out of New Zealand for the years 1990-2022 on either a job seeker with disability, disability, and jobseeker?*
- *If any individuals did receive ongoing support whilst remaining on any of the main benefits, what was the maximum duration they continued to be paid those benefits while absent from New Zealand?*
- *Can you please supply the numbers of individuals residing, sojourning, or living in New Zealand who are accessing through MSD their Cestui Que account by way of special request to the Governor General?*
- *Can you please advise under what circumstances, those receiving benefits were able to continue receiving benefits while absent from New Zealand, the reason for the decisions, any notes, emails, memos pertaining to those decisions?*

For the sake of clarity, I will address each part of your request in turn.

- *Please can you advise the numbers of individual beneficiaries who continued to receive ongoing support while out of New Zealand for the years 1990-2022 on either a job seeker with disability, disability, and jobseeker?*
- *If any individuals did receive ongoing support whilst remaining on any of the main benefits, what was the maximum duration they continued to be paid those benefits while absent from New Zealand?*
- *Can you please advise under what circumstances, those receiving benefits were able to continue receiving benefits while absent from New Zealand, the reason for the decisions, any notes, emails, memos pertaining to those decisions?*

The Ministry does not grant portability for these specific benefit types. As such, these parts of your request have been refused under section 18(e) of the Act as the information does not exist.

Clients receiving a New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension may be able to continue receiving their payments while overseas under portability provisions, if they are:

- residing in a country that New Zealand does not have a social security agreement with
- travelling overseas for more than 26 weeks but not residing in any one country, or
- leaving New Zealand for more than 52 weeks to live in certain Pacific countries.

You can find more information regarding General/Special Portability, qualifications, and legislations, at the following links:

- General Portability: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/portability/general-portability/index.html, and
 - Special Portability: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/to-or-from-overseas/portability/special-portability/index.html.
- *Can you please supply the numbers of individuals residing, sojourning, or living in New Zealand who are accessing through MSD their Cestui Que account by way of special request to the Governor General?*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

In order to be eligible for assistance from the Ministry, there are a variety of conditions which a client must meet. These conditions vary depending on the type of assistance sought and can be found at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/.

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 beneficiaries still receiving support whilst not currently residing in New Zealand, 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 Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**