



20 December 2022

Tēnā koe

On 25 November 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 the following information:

- *In the past 12 months, how many \$5k to work grants have been paid?*

The \$5k to Work is an incentive payment to assist clients to relocate when they have secured sustainable employment. The job offer must be far enough from the client's current residence that commuting to work would be financially impractical and that without relocating the job seeker would be financially disadvantaged by taking up the employment.

The recipient does not have to be receiving a main benefit from Work and Income, but does need to meet the eligibility criteria for a main benefit, for example Jobseeker Support.

When it is identified that a Work and Income client would benefit from assistance to relocate, staff will proactively advise clients that they may be entitled to the \$5k to Work payment. More information about this payment can be found on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/5k-to-work.html.

Please find attached, as an **Appendix**, an Excel Spreadsheet which contains the number of \$5K to Work grants for the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022.

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 number of \$5k to Work grants during the period 1 November 2021 to 31 October 2022, 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

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Manager
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