



13 June 2022

Dear

On 21 April 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please forward to me the latest details regarding the repayment of the 2020 wage subsidies to the companies which applied for and received the subsidies.*

On 27 April 2022, the Ministry emailed you to clarify your request to which you responded with the following information:

- *All that I am interested in is which companies received the original wage subsidy payments, how much has been repaid and therefore how much is outstanding? An up-to-date statement covering those details would be great.*

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

Even though some 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 Declaration Links that were previously provided to you.

This total value of repayments received and the number of recipients who have made a repayment is available each week on the Ministry's website here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/weekly-reporting/index.html.

Please find **Table One** enclosed in **Appendix A**, which outlines the top 30 Companies paid the highest amount of Wage Subsidy, the total amount they were paid, the total amount they have repaid and the remaining balance as at 31 March 2022.

You may note that some values in the 'Total amount paid' column of the provided table have slightly decreased from the information provided to you on 29 July 2021. The Ministry is constantly reviewing and improving our reporting and have repeated the collation of this data for your request. During the collation process, the Ministry discovered for some companies, we had slightly over accounted the money paid to them at the time of the Wage Subsidy Scheme due to a coding error. This has now been corrected in the information provided to you.

It is important to note that some repayments were made voluntarily and that not all repayments shown in the dataset were requested by the Ministry.

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 Act 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 the table in Appendix A 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 repayment of 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



George Van Ooyen
Group General Manager
Client Service Support

Appendix A

Table One: The top 30 Companies paid the highest amount of Wage Subsidy after the deduction of any repayments, as at 31 March 2022.

Business Name	Total Amount Paid	Total Amount Repaid	Balance
Air New Zealand Limited	\$116,774,588.40	\$3,802,657.07	\$112,971,931.33
Fletcher Building Holdings Limited	\$67,683,717.60	\$0.00	\$67,683,717.60
Downer New Zealand Limited	\$38,232,218.40	\$193,045.16	\$38,039,173.24
Fulton Hogan Limited	\$34,254,796.80	\$939,666.41	\$33,315,130.39
New Zealand Post Limited	\$29,714,222.40	\$165,463.29	\$29,548,759.11
Spotless Facility Services (NZ) Limited	\$28,718,341.20	\$647,114.68	\$28,071,226.52
The Farmers Trading Company Limited	\$28,083,748.40	\$54,549.20	\$28,029,199.20
KiwiRail Holdings Limited	\$26,387,304.00	\$82,896.00	\$26,304,408.00
Best Start Educare Limited	\$25,640,354.40	\$924,367.00	\$24,715,987.40
Bunnings Limited	\$27,202,044.00	\$2,718,640.80	\$24,483,403.20
SkyCity Management Limited	\$31,206,089.60	\$6,787,418.10	\$24,418,671.50
AWF Limited	\$24,852,532.00	\$1,531,309.20	\$23,321,222.80
OCS Limited	\$24,426,928.80	\$1,650,828.00	\$22,776,100.80
Restaurant Brands Limited	\$22,180,005.60	\$108,060.00	\$22,071,945.60
Compass Group New Zealand Limited	\$15,965,949.60	\$293,517.60	\$15,672,432.00
Bidfood Limited	\$14,314,905.60	\$109,473.14	\$14,205,432.46
Harvey Norman Stores (NZ) Pty Limited	\$12,707,652.00	\$7,029.60	\$12,700,622.40
Adecco Personnel Limited	\$12,219,996.00	\$0.00	\$12,219,996.00
Kmart NZ Holdings Ltd	\$11,977,440.00	\$0.00	\$11,977,440.00
Antares Restaurant Group Limited	\$11,476,586.40	\$0.00	\$11,476,586.40
Regional Facilities Auckland Trust	\$11,448,872.00	\$35,769.33	\$11,413,102.67
Flight Centre (NZ) Limited	\$11,191,423.60	\$20,649.91	\$11,170,773.69
Waste Management NZ Limited	\$10,975,680.00	\$151,841.61	\$10,823,838.39
LSG Sky Chefs New Zealand Limited	\$10,122,723.60	\$3,772.80	\$10,118,950.80
Southern Cross Hospital Limited	\$10,086,931.20	\$0.00	\$10,086,931.20
Carters Building Supplies Limited	\$10,050,780.00	\$0.00	\$10,050,780.00
Broadspectrum (New Zealand) Ltd	\$9,977,565.60	\$189,457.60	\$9,788,108.00
Madison Recruitment Limited	\$9,983,707.20	\$315,359.20	\$9,668,348.00
City Care Limited	\$9,301,264.80	\$237,447.80	\$9,063,817.00
Airways Corporation Of NZ	\$8,989,500.80	\$11,716.00	\$8,977,784.80

Notes:

- Wage Subsidy payments include the original Wage Subsidy, the Wage Subsidy Extension, and the Resurgence Wage Subsidy.
- The payments and repayments include employer and sole trader amounts.