



14 June 2022

Tēnā koe

On 19 May 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please provide the current clients' number of individual Taiwanese pensions subject to direct deduction from NZ superannuation. The required pensions are National Old Age Pension (National Pension), Labor Old Age Pension, Civil Service Retirement Pension, and Military Pension.*
- *Please provide the client's number of individual pensions for these four schemes.*

Sections 187-191 of the Social Security Act 2018 (formerly section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964) provide that where a person receives an Overseas Pension (OSP) that is administered by or on behalf of the government of the overseas country paying the pension, that person's New Zealand Superannuation (NZS) will be reduced by the amount of the OSP, as calculated in accordance with regulations.

The policy intent of sections 187-191 of the Social Security Act 2018 is to ensure that those entitled to NZS or other Main Benefits are treated equitably and get the same level of government retirement support, whether solely through NZS, or through a combination of OSP and NZS, or solely through the OSP.

In some situations, it is possible for a person to receive a total rate of OSP that is higher than their rate of NZS. Where a direct deduction is applied which reduces a person's rate of NZS to zero, there is no penalty applied for any excess OSP they receive.

For more information about the Government's deduction policy, please see the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/moving-to-nz/overseas-pensions-deduction-examples.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/pensions/travelling-or-moving/moving-to-nz/overseas-pensions-deduction-examples.html).

In response to question one of your request please see the table below:

**Table: Number of Taiwanese pension deductions and amount to NZS clients as at 31 March 2022.**

| Country | Number of Clients | Annualised Amount as at 31 March 2022 |
|---------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Taiwan  | 603               | \$2,407,629.84                        |

**Notes:**

- Only clients who receive New Zealand Superannuation have been included in this report.
- The country stated is where the Overseas Pension has been paid from.
- The annualised amount is in New Zealand dollars. It is an approximation of the annual value of overseas pensions based on amounts and exchange rates as at time of report.
- Figures are current as at the time of reporting. However, these may be subject to change due to new historical information being recorded by the Ministry.
- Post-June 2016 numbers and deductions are calculated using an improved methodology which excludes some Overseas Pension records that are in the system but not deducted from the recipients New Zealand Superannuation.

Regarding the second part of your request, the Ministry's centralised reporting does not differentiate between different types of deductible Taiwanese pensions. This information is held on individual client files. To provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

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