



21 June 2022

Tēnā koe

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

I would like to know:

1. Under the Flexi-Wage Self Employment category;

1a. What is the total number of applications your organisation received per year in the last 10 years?

1b. How many applications are successful per year in the last 10 years?

1c. What is the total application your organisation received from former refugees per year in the last 10 years?

1d. How many applications submitted by former refugees are successful per year in the last 10 years?

2. Under the Self-Employment Start-up category;

2a. What is the total number of applications your organisation received per year in the last 10 years?

2b. How many applications are successful per year in the last 10 years?

2c. What is the total application your organisation received from former refugees per year in the last 10 years?

2d. How many applications submitted by former refugees are successful per year in the last 10 years?

3. Under the Business Training and Advice Grants category;

3a. What is the total number of applications your organisation received per year in the last 10 years?

3b. How many applications are successful per year in the last 10 years?

3c. What is the total application your organisation received from former refugees per year in the last 10 years?

3d. How many applications submitted by former refugees are successful per year in the last 10 years?

4. Which of these funds/grants are to be repaid?

For clarity, I will respond to each part of your request in turn. Some questions have been grouped together as they are for similar information.

1a. What is the total number of applications your organisation received per year in the last 10 years?

2a. What is the total number of applications your organisation received per year in the last 10 years?

3a. What is the total number of applications your organisation received per year in the last 10 years?

The Ministry is unable to provide you with the number of applications received in the last 10 years, as this information is not recorded. As such, this section of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

1b. How many applications are successful per year in the last 10 years?

2b. How many applications are successful per year in the last 10 years?

3b. How many applications are successful per year in the last 10 years?

I refer to **Table One** in **Appendix One**, attached, showing the number of successful applications for Flexi-Wage Self-Employment and Business Training and Advice Grants contracts during financial year 2012 to 2021.

For the Self-Employment Start Up payments (2b.), the number of successful applications is not recorded. As such, this section of your request is also refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

1c. What is the total application your organisation received from former refugees per year in the last 10 years?

1d. How many applications submitted by former refugees are successful per year in the last 10 years?

2c. What is the total application your organisation received from former refugees per year in the last 10 years?

2d. How many applications submitted by former refugees are successful per year in the last 10 years?

3c. What is the total application your organisation received from former refugees per year in the last 10 years?

3d. How many applications submitted by former refugees are successful per year in the last 10 years?

On 1 June 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advise that we could not provide you with data for this section of your request. This is because when clients make an application for the assistances referred to in your request, the Ministry does not categorise each application based on ethnicity or residency. As such, this section of your request is also refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist.

4. Which of these funds/grants are to be repaid?

Flexi Wage Self-Employment is a wage subsidy to help clients overcome financial barriers associated with moving into self-employment. These financial assistances are non-recoverable assistance except for in situations where there is a breach of the agreed terms and conditions where these may be made recoverable. This is clearly stated in the Flexi-Wage Self-Employment agreement.

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 attachments 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 Flexi-Wage Self-Employment and Business Training and Advice Grants and Self-Employment Start Up payments, 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'KHetherington', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

pp Kristy Hetherington
Director
Employment Service Delivery

Appendix One:

Table One: The number of Flexi-Wage Self Employment and Business Training Advice Grant contracts during financial years 2012 to 2021.

Financial year	Flexi-Wage Self Employment	Business Training and Advice Grant
2011 / 2012	222	366
2012 / 2013	156	222
2013 / 2014	165	243
2014 / 2015	249	405
2015 / 2016	210	198
2016 / 2017	195	297
2017 / 2018	177	279
2018 / 2019	195	282
2019 / 2020	192	297
2020 / 2021	360	471

Notes:

- Flexi-Wage Self Employment includes Enterprise Allowance and Enterprise Allowance Capitalisation.
- The Ministry's financial year commences on the 1st of July and ends at the 30th of June.
- The table is showing number of contracts, not number of applications received.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.