



4 May 2022

Tēnā koe

On 9 March 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *In reference to Cabinet Paper Report Back on a Wage Supplement Approach to Replace Minimum Wage Exemption Permits from 20 November 2019 I request the following:*
  - *The modelling referenced in paragraph 9.1 to explore the impact on disabled employees under different circumstances on being paid the minimum wage.*
  - *The submissions received as a result of the consultation and considered in the writing of this paper.*

On 5 April 2022, the Ministry emailed you to advise that more time was required to respond due to the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request.

I will now respond to your questions in turn.

- *The modelling referenced in paragraph 9.1 to explore the impact on disabled employees under different circumstances on being paid the minimum wage*

The modelling referred to in paragraph 9.1 of the Cabinet Paper Report Back was created to test if any recipients of the proposed Wage Supplement would be worse off, in the same position, or better off than they would be with the current Minimum Wage Exemption policy in place.

The modelling used real-life Work and Income clients in receipt of Supported Living Payment, and their personal situations to inform the Cabinet Paper Report Back. As the information directly relates to fifteen clients, and the potential pool of those on minimum wage exemptions is relatively small, this

modelling is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons.

- *The submissions received as a result of the consultation and considered in the writing of this paper.*

Please find attached the '*Summary of Submissions made in response to government consultation on a Wage Supplement as an alternative to the Minimum Wage Exemption.*' This document includes all the answers from the electronic survey. This includes:

- '*Minimum Wage Exemption consultation*', summarising the survey that was sent to 72 individuals
- 6 submissions from various Business Enterprises
- 8 group submissions
- 19 submissions from individuals
- 68 paper submissions received in the mail

You will note that the names of some individuals are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

You will note that the names of other applicant organisations and specific notes relating to that interview are withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act because it is subject to an obligation of confidence. If that information were to be released, it could affect future applications.

21 submissions from individuals were also identified to be within the scope of your request, however 18 are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The remaining three submissions are withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act as it is subject to an obligation of confidence, and if released, could prejudice the supply of similar information in the future. The greater public interest is in ensuring that such information can continue to be supplied.

Altus Enterprises have made their submission available to the public. Please refer to '*Enhancing disabled people's lives through employment: Social Impact Report 2018*' at the following link: [altusenterprises.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/social-impact-report-altus-enterprises-nov201.pdf](https://altusenterprises.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/social-impact-report-altus-enterprises-nov201.pdf)

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 regarding the submissions received and modelling used by the Ministry for the Cabinet paper '*Report Back on a Wage Supplement Approach to Replace Minimum Wage Exemption Permits*', 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shaun McMaster', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shaun McMaster  
**Policy Manager**  
**Disability Policy**