



16 November 2022

Tēnā koe

On 13 September 2022, you emailed the Ministry as a follow up from your previous Official Information Act 1981 (the Act) request response sent 13 September 2022. This request was lodged as a new request, under the Act. In particular, you requested the following information:

*Regarding the question: Highest amount paid to an under 18 sole trader across all subsidies (LSS, WS etc.)
I was hoping you could provide me with a single figure for the highest amount received by a single under 18 applicant. Would you be able to provide this for me?*

On 14 September 2022, the Ministry emailed you to clarify your request. On the same day, you clarified your request as asking for the following:

How much the highest paid under 18 recipient of all subsidies was (e.g multiple applications for LSS would result in a higher figure across other applicants).

Please see the attached **Appendix** containing **Table One** outlining the maximum amount of COVID-19 wage subsidy and Leave Support subsidy paid to a sole trader applicant under 18 years of old during the period 26 May 2020 to 30 June 2022.

Prior to 26 May 2020, the date of birth of wage subsidy applicants was not requested as part of the application process, and the Ministry's centralised reporting for this period does not provide wage subsidies broken down by age.

The total reflects the highest amount as per the Ministry's centralised reporting taking all subsidies from 26 May 2020. However, based on further information from the applicant's record, we can advise they also received a payment of \$7,029.60 in March 2020 for the original wage subsidy.

Due to the limitations of the Ministry's centralised reporting regarding age of applicants for subsidies prior to 26 May 2020, please note the possibility that

an applicant under 18 years old may have received a higher combined total of wage subsidy payments including any received before this date than what is provided to you.

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 for the maximum amount paid to an under 18 sole trader, 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

Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolutions
Service Delivery**

Appendix

Table One: Maximum amount of COVID-19 wage subsidy and Leave Support Subsidy paid to a sole trader applicant under 18 years old during the period 26 May 2020 to 30 June 2022

Maximum Paid
\$16,176.00

Notes:

- This only includes sole trader/self-employed applications.
- This is the total amount paid to an applicant across multiple applications.
- Date of birth was only captured from 26 May 2020.
- The applicant also received an earlier payment of \$7,029.60 for the original wage subsidy in March 2020, which is not included in the total above.