



1 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 3 July 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

How many job workshops/seminars/events did the Ministry of Social Development run over the past four years (dating back until Q1 2019), broken down by quarter, and region?

How many people attended these workshops, and how many of them got jobs after attending them, again broken down by quarter, and region (dating back until Q1 2019)?

The Ministry has 13 regions around the country, with 125 sites, in order to cater for the approximately one million clients it has at any one time.

Our sites periodically offer seminars, job expos, and other events.

Each site tailors their offerings and the frequency of events based on the needs of their clients, and whether there are opportunities with employers for job expos. These events are locally-driven, and part of our regional business-as-usual activities.

Sites are not required to regularly report back to national office on this activity, and there is currently no formal measurement for outcomes after attending a seminar. For these reasons we do not hold information centrally on all job workshops/seminars/events, the number of clients attending these, or how many obtained employment as a result. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of individual client files to check for attendance and subsequent benefit exits (for example, almost 18,000 attended seminars in 2020/21). 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.

However, at a broader level, we do hold some data on the number of expos, the number of attendees, and some employment outcomes stemming from selected expo activity as part of our Annual Review cycle. This data covers January 2019 – through to the end of June 2022. Please see the **Appendix** containing the relevant extracts from our Annual Review documents spanning 2018 to 2022.

Please note that some information has been withheld as it is out of scope of your request.

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 about employment outcomes for people attending employment expos, 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 Resolution
Ministry of Social Development



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Social Services and Community Committee

2018/19 Annual Review of the Ministry of Social Development

Date of hearing: Wednesday 4 December 2019

Pre-hearing questions 1 – 197

Date Submitted: Thursday 28 November 2019

Out of scope



146. How many employment expos have been held?

There were 45 employment expos in Auckland between January and June 2019.

147. What are the employment outcomes of each expo?

The table below details the employment outcomes from the 45 employment expos, by month. The total of 1,109 that exited the benefit system for work through these expos represents 24.9 percent of those who attended.

Month (2019)	No of expos held	Total bookings	Total shows	Work exits
January	5	748	382	67
February	8	1,376	755	139
March	10	1,902	966	171
April	1	123	64	15
May	10	2,452	1,284	381
June	11	2,156	1,108	336
TOTAL	45	8,757	4,559	1,109

Out of scope



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Social Services and Community Committee

2019/20 Annual Review of the Ministry of Social Development

Annual Review Standard Questions 1 – 270

Submitted 12 February 2021

Out of scope

179. How many employment expos have been held?

The following table outlines the number of employment expos and attendees for the 2019/2020 financial year:

Month	Number of expos	Attendees
July 2019	3	287
August 2019	6	595
September 2019	7	794
October 2019	5	524
November 2019	12	1,331
December 2019	7	367
January 2020	8	722
February 2020	9	1,551
March 2020	4	59
April 2020	0	0
May 2020	1	33 estimated
June 2020	2	32 estimated
Total	64	6,295

Estimates of the number of attendees have been provided in some cases as MSD's previous appointment booking system, which held attendance information, was retired in April 2020.

180. What are the employment outcomes of each expo?

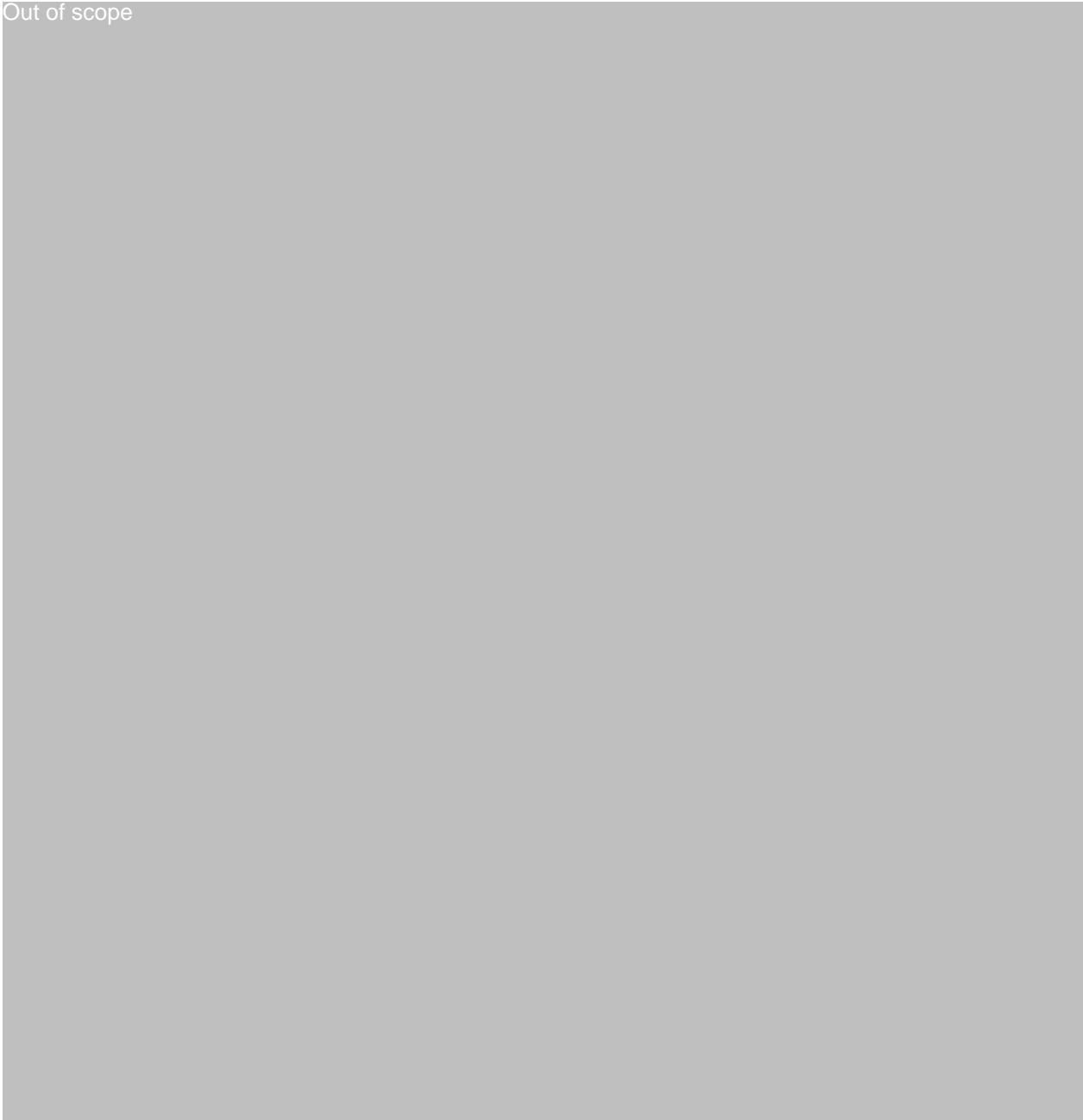
The following table outlines the number of employment outcomes resulting from expo activity for the 2019/2020 financial year:

Month	Employment outcomes
July 2019	181
August 2019	290

September 2019	317
October 2019	227
November 2019	175
December 2019	47
January 2020	138
February 2020	168
March 2020	4
April 2020	0
May 2020	9 estimated
June 2020	18 estimated
Total	1,574

In line with the response to Question 179, estimates have been provided as there are limitations in the way the outcomes can be attributed to attendance at employment expos due to the retirement of MSD's previous appointment booking system.

Out of scope





**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Social Services and Community Committee

2020/21 Annual Review of the Ministry of Social Development

MSD Responses to Annual Review Standard and Additional Questions 1 to 394

Submitted: 1 December 2021

216. How many employment expos have been held?

For 2020/21, 3,684 seminars have been held with a total of 17,985 attendees. These seminars are held across all MSD regions and include a full range of employment, income and housing offerings that are available in a seminar-type format.

217. Where have the employment expos been held?

Please refer to the response to Question 216.

218. What are the employment outcomes of each expo?

There is currently no formal measurement for outcomes after attending a seminar.

Out of scope





**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Social Services and Community Committee

2021/22 Annual Review of the Ministry of Social Development

Responses to Annual Review Standard and Additional Questions

Submitted: 2 December 2022

Out of scope

211. How many employment expos have been held?

For 2021/22, 18,885 seminars have been held with a total of 99,388 booked attendees. These seminars are held across all MSD regions and include a full range of employment, income and housing offerings that are available in a seminar-type format.

212. Where have the employment expos been held?

Please refer to the response to Question 211.

213. What are the employment outcomes of each expo?

There is currently no formal measurement for outcomes after attending a seminar.

Out of scope