



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

24 November 2023

Tēnā koe

On 13 November 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- 1. Would you kindly share the total number of people receiving an unemployment benefit as of today who were made unemployed as a result of vaccine mandates.*
- 2. Would you also share the total number of people on a sickness benefit as of today for people who were made unemployed as a result of vaccine mandates.*
- 3. Please share the total number of people on a sickness benefit as of today for people who suffered a medical misadventure or a vaccine injury.*

Due to the substantial amount of work that would be required to find and collate the information you have requested, we are refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, on the basis that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

The Ministry does not centrally report on the areas requested. Instead, any reference to the information you have requested would be contained within the notes section of each relevant client's file. To respond to your queries, the Ministry would need to manually review a substantial number of files to find any that relate to vaccine mandates, medical misadventure, or vaccine injuries.

The Ministry have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to your request would help, as required by section 18A of the Act. However, the Ministry does not consider that either of these approaches would allow us to meet your request without significant and unreasonable impact on the Ministry's ability to carry out its other operations.

We have considered consulting with you, as required by section 18B of the Act. However, due to the specificity of your request, the Ministry does not

consider that consultation would assist in providing you the information that you wish for. For reference, the closest data the Ministry centrally reports on to your query is the number of people who have marked their reason for applying for a benefit as 'Ceased work'. If you would like this information, please let us know.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

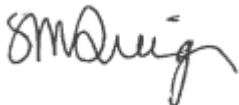
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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, 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



Sarah Quigan
**Manager Official Information
Ministerial and Executive Services**