



27 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email dated 18 January 2024, in which you requested information about the number of \$5k to Work recipients who continue to be employed. Your request was transferred to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) from the office of Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I will first respond to your request before providing further information about the \$5k to Work grant.

Please see the following tables in the attached **Appendix**:

- **Table One:** The number of \$5k to Work grants from 1 October 2020 (the date the \$5k to Work grant was introduced) to 31 December 2023 and whether a main benefit was subsequently granted as at 31 December 2023, broken down by month.
- **Table Two:** The number of clients who received \$5k to Work grants from 1 October 2020 to 31 July 2023 and whether a main benefit was subsequently granted within six months, broken down by month.

\$5k to Work

The \$5K to Work grant is an incentive payment to assist clients to relocate when they have secured sustainable employment. The job offer must be far enough from the client's current residence that commuting to work would be financially impractical and that without locating, the job seeker would be financially disadvantaged by taking up the employment. It is expected that people who receive the \$5K to Work payment would have their accommodation arranged prior to relocation. The \$5K to Work grant was introduced in October 2020, replacing the previous \$3K to Work grant. Further information is available here: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/5k-to-work.html>.

The recipient does not have to be receiving a main benefit from Work and Income but does need to meet the eligibility for a main benefit, for example, Jobseeker Support.

The \$5K to Work payment must be repaid if:

- A client reapplies for a main benefit or returns to study within 91 days

- of the job start date
- The client left their job without good and sufficient reason, or
- The client did not use the payment for the reason it was paid to them,
- e.g., securing sustainable employment and relocating.

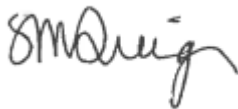
More information about this payment can be found on the Work and Income website, here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/5k-to-work.html.

I will publish this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services