



17 June 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 22 May 2024, requesting the number of hardship assistance applications received and declined during the months of January-April 2024, broken down by month.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please refer to **Appendix A** below, which contains one table in response to your request:

Table One: Number of hardship assistance grants, declines and applications processed from 1 January 2024 to 30 April 2024, broken down by month and hardship type.

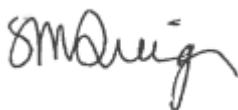
Hardship types include: Advance Payments of Benefit, Recoverable Assistance Payments and Special Needs Grants. You can find more information about these here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/urgent-costs/index.html.

I will be publishing 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



Appendix A

Table One: Number of hardship assistance grants, declines and applications processed from 1 January 2024 to 30 April 2024, broken down by month and hardship type.

Month / Hardship Type	Advance Payment of Benefit			Recoverable Assistance Payment			Special Needs Grants			Total		
	Grant	Decline	Total Applications Processed	Grant	Decline	Total Applications Processed	Grant	Decline	Total Applications Processed	Grant	Decline	Total Applications Processed
January 2024	62,175	6,771	68,946	4,641	654	5,292	148,392	9,669	158,058	215,202	17,091	232,296
February 2024	56,781	6,663	63,444	4,176	696	4,872	133,617	7,935	141,552	194,577	15,294	209,868
March 2024	49,374	7,209	56,586	3,681	765	4,449	134,628	8,658	143,283	187,683	16,629	204,315
April 2024	48,306	6,897	55,203	3,624	618	4,245	131,787	8,961	140,748	183,717	16,479	200,196

Notes:

- This is a count of grants and declines, not clients. A client can have more than one grant and/or decline in the period.
- Total applications are the number of applications processed, which include grants and declines.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.