



11 March 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

On 19 February 2024, the Ministry of Social Development received your request for data on those who had opted out of the Winter Energy Payments (WEP), which was transferred from Stats New Zealand.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision set out below.

Please find **Table One:** attached which provides the number of WEP opt-out actions with no subsequent re-grant in the period from 1 July to 30 September each year from 2019 to 2023. This data is broken down by benefit type and the WEP period of each year.


Your request for '*Winston Peters took his Superannuation and not? Winter Energy Payments*' is refused under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect this privacy outweighs any public interest in this information.

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

p.p. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services