



18 April 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 13 March 2024, requesting information about the duration of clients on the Jobseeker Support (JS).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which contains a table showing the number of current working age clients on Jobseeker Support as at the end of December for years 2013 to 2023, broken down by continuous duration on any main benefit.

This table is only able to go back to 2013 as that was when Jobseeker Support was introduced as part of the welfare reform.

It is important to note that this table reflects the average continuous duration, which calculates the average time people spend continuously on main benefits. If a person's main benefit is cancelled and they do not return within 14 days, then their continuous duration is reset, and it will start again from zero if they return to benefit. As this is a current view of a client's benefit receipt, this information cannot be used to calculate the average Jobseeker tenure (over a client's lifetime) as per your request.

The modelling used to estimate the average future years that people spend supported by a main benefit over their working lives is robust. It is based on careful analysis of Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) data about people's past outcomes and is aligned to the Treasury's economic outlook. This modelling comes from the Social Outcomes Model in the IDI and is estimated for every individual before being summarised to an aggregate figure, so we are unable to provide you this.

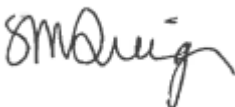
The estimate of future time allows for people to exit and re-enter multiple times over their working age lives, so is not a continuous measure.

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