



29 May 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 13 May 2024, requesting information on SuperGold cards.

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

- 1. Could you advise if the SuperGold card is categorised/considered as "welfare assistance/benefit" or not? In other words, please tell, if a senior (who meets the criteria for a SuperGold card) applies for a SuperGold card and is issued a Supergold card, will that person be considered to have taken welfare assistance/benefit? or does MSD consider it simply a discount card, an entitlement and not classify it as "taking welfare assistance."*

The SuperGold Card is a discount and concession card for all New Zealanders aged 65 years and over, and those who qualify for New Zealand Superannuation or Veterans Pension. It provides access to government concessions and discounts for everyday goods and services. It is not considered a benefit under the Social Security Act 2018 (SSA).

A benefit is defined in Schedule 2 of the SSA and can be found here, along with a link to the Work and Income website which contains helpful information on the SuperGold Card:

- [www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0032/latest/DLM6784375.html#DLM6784375](http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2018/0032/latest/DLM6784375.html#DLM6784375)
- [www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/card-services/supergold-card/introduction.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/card-services/supergold-card/introduction.html)

- 2. Please provide the number of persons split by month (and if possible, region) who were issued supergold cards (between May 2022- May 2024, and they were not eligible for NZ superannuation at the time when the cards were issued to them).*

3. *Please provide the number of persons split by month (and if possible, region) who were issued supergold cards (between May 2022- May 2024, they were not eligible for NZ superannuation then and they held a parent resident visa at the time when the cards were issued to them).*
4. *Please provide the number of persons split by month (and if possible, region) who were issued supergold cards (between May 2022- May 2024, they were not eligible for NZ superannuation then and they held any NZ resident visa at the time when the cards were issued to them).*

This information is held in notes on individual client files. In order to provide you with this information, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, requires substantial collation. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

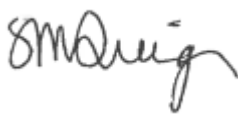
I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your requests given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**