



19 November 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 22 October 2024 requesting information about youth payments.

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 separately below. Some sections are grouped together for clarity.

- *The total number of applications for the youth payment for working age and 16/17 year olds per quarter from September 2013 to June 2024, broken down into rejected and accepted categories.*
- *The total number of applications for the young parent payment for working age and 16/17 year olds per quarter from September 2013 to June 2024, broken down into rejected and accepted categories.*

Please find attached the following tables in **Appendix One:**

- **Table One:** Number of grants and declines of Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment during quarters ending 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2024, broken down by age.

Due to table sizes, please note that these tables sit across two worksheets within the attached appendix.

- *The total number of cancelled and suspended benefits for both the youth payment and young parent payment per quarter from September 2013 until June 2024.*

Please find attached the following table in **Appendix One:**

- **Table Two:** Number of cancellations of Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment during quarters ending 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2024, broken down by age.

The Ministry does not report on suspended benefits as this is a temporary status where the client is awaiting a decision on whether their benefit is continued or stopped. In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have

to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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 request 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.

- *Disaggregated demographic data (ethnicity, continuous duration of benefit, and gender) broken down by age (16, 17, 18, 19 etc) for every quarter from September 2013 until June 2024 (current release are aggregated into 16 & 17 year olds and 18-24 years olds).*

Please find attached the following tables in **Appendix One**:

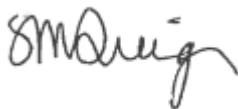
- **Table Three:** Number of clients current on Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment as at quarters ending September 2013 to June 2024, broken down by gender, benefit type and age.
- **Table Four:** Number of clients current on Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment as at quarters ending September 2013 to June 2024, broken down by continuous duration, benefit type and age.
- **Table Five:** Number of clients current on Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment as at quarters ending September 2013 to June 2024, broken down by total ethnic response, benefit type and age.

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**