



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

17 September 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act Request**

Thank you for your email of 20 August 2024, requesting information about reparations paid for Covid-19 Wage Subsidy fraud. 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.

#### ***Out of the 23 people sentenced for covid-19 wage subsidy fraud so far, how much of their collective reparations remain to be paid?***

The Ministry has successfully prosecuted 27 individuals for Covid-19 Wage Subsidy fraud, who owe a total of \$1,293,361.20. Of those 27:

- Three have repaid in full, a total of \$255,451.
- Six are currently repaying and have repaid a total of \$18,014 to date (three have a reparation order in place).
- Five are currently in prison so are not able to repay until they are released (they all have a reparation order in place).
- 13 are not currently paying (eight with reparation ordered).

These criminal prosecutions make up one part of our work on repayments which at 6 September had resulted in \$826.9 million being repaid. Data on the Wage Subsidy Integrity and Fraud Programme is currently updated monthly as part of [this page](#).

#### ***Is it likely a good portion of these reparations may never be paid back in full?***

For the Official Information Act 1982 to apply, the information must already be held at the time the request is received. There is no obligation on an agency to form an opinion or create new information to answer a request, except when providing a statement of reasons explaining a decision that has

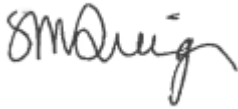
affected the requester. The Ministry is therefore not obliged to answer this question under the Act, as it is not asking for information that is already held.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details removed, 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



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Magnus O'Neill

**General Manager**  
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