



14 JUN 2017

Dear

On 13 April 2017, you contacted the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *Information regarding the circumstances and reasoning in cases in which the Internal Review outcome and the Benefits Review Committee outcome was that the decision was overturned, for cases that involved the Canadian pensions.*

Seven Review of Decision (ROD) applications were overturned at the Internal Review stage, that involved a Canadian pension between the financial years ending 2009 and 2016. The details of these reviews have been summarised below:

- Some decisions were overturned that relate to overpayments that were established when a Canadian Pension has been paid for the same period a New Zealand Superannuation has been paid. It was concluded that these overpayments were to be written off as determined under section 86(9A) of the Social Security Act 1964 at the time of review, therefore not required to be repaid by the client. Please note that individual circumstances are taken into account when considering a debt for write off.
- Some decisions were overturned relating to the portability of New Zealand Superannuation to Canada. Administrative errors by the Ministry in the processing of the portability of New Zealand Superannuation to Canada had occurred and were then corrected when identified.
- Some decisions were overturned regarding the amount of deduction from New Zealand Superannuation payments due to being in receipt of a Canadian Pension. The amount of Canadian Pension was incorrectly added by the Ministry and was therefore updated to the correct amount with the deduction being updated accordingly.

There were no ROD applications overturned at the Benefit Review Committee stage that involved a Canadian Pension between the financial years ending 2009 and 2016.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response regarding Internal Review outcomes with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery