



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

14 JUN 2017

Dear

On 14 April 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information regarding Business start-up grants:

- *The number of applications that applied to this department for the Business Start up Grant for the 2016 Fiscal year.*
- *The number of successful applicants for the 2016 Fiscal year.*

Flexi-Wage was previously known as Enterprise Allowance until 2011. This was replaced by Job Streams which was introduced in 2011. Within Job Streams, there are three different types of Flexi-Wage subsidy: Flexi-Wage Basic, Flexi-Wage Plus, and Flexi-Wage Self-Employment.

Assistance may also be available through a Business Training and Advice Grant, which helps beneficiaries meet the costs of receiving business advice, developing a vetting report and business plan, and undertaking business skills training.

Further information about Job Streams is publicly available online at: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/move-into-work/start-your-own-business.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/move-into-work/start-your-own-business.html)

In the 2015/16 financial year Work and Income approved 207 Flexi-Wage Self-Employment opportunities and 206 Business Training and Advice Grants. Please note this is a count of approved payments, not clients and Self-Employment assistance can also include a lump sum payment for essential business start-up costs.

Your request for the number of applications made for a Flexi-Wage Self-Employment grant and the Business Training and Advice Grant is refused, as the information is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information 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.

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 with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response about Flexi-Wage Self-Employment, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bound', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**