



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

23 DEC 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 2 December 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please indicate the number of recipients of the Covid-19 Income Relief Payment who also received Temporary Additional Support (TAS)*

The COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP) was available for 12 weeks from 8 June 2020, for anyone who lost their job due to the impact of COVID-19, since 1 March 2020. It paid \$490 a week to those who lost full-time work and \$250 for part-time. The payment was not taxed. More information on the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment can be found on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/income-relief-payment/index.html

Temporary Additional Support (TAS) is a non-taxable supplementary payment that can be paid for a maximum of 13 weeks, at which point a re-application is required. It is paid to assist clients with their regular essential living costs that cannot be met from their income and other resources. A client does not need to be receiving a main benefit to qualify for TAS but must meet a cash asset test.

More information on TAS, including the eligibility criteria, can be found on the Ministry's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/temporary-additional-support.html#null.

Please see **Table One** in **Appendix A** which shows the number of CIRP recipients as at the end of each month from June to November 2020, broken down by whether or not they were also receiving TAS.

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
- 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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details

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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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the number of recipients of the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment who also received TAS, 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

pp 

Bridget Saunders
**Manager, Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix A:

Table One: The number CIRP recipients as at the end of each month from June to November 2020, broken down by whether or not they were also receiving TAS.

CIRP recipients	Month end					
	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020	October 2020	November 2020
Also receiving TAS	192	456	584	316	231	154
Not receiving TAS	10,387	20,501	24,227	11,572	8,764	5,817
Total	10,579	20,957	24,811	11,888	8,995	5,971

Notes:

- CIRP is the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment
- TAS is Temporary Additional Support