



Tēnā koe

On 9 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information in relation to Child Care Subsidy (CCS):

- 1. Number of Childcare Subsidy recipients since the last two increases in the minimum wage and whether there is any correlation between subsidy eligibility and minimum wage movement.*

On 10 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Act, the following information in relation to CCS:

- 2. Number of applications and requests for Childcare Subsidies that have been made since the country returned to Alert Level 2 (and including now Level 1);*
 - o how many have been addressed;*
 - o how many remain outstanding;*
 - o and the expected processing time.*

During your phone conversation with the Advisor on 30 June 2020, you confirmed that, as the recent increase to the minimum wage (question one), and Alert Level 2 (question two) both commenced during the June 2020 quarter, you were happy to wait for the June quarter figures to be available in order for the Ministry to provide a sufficient response.

Work and Income provides income support and employment services throughout New Zealand and offers a single point of contact for New Zealanders needing work-search support, income support and in-work support.

Work and Income also administers CCS and the Out of School Care and Recreation subsidy which provides financial support for childcare, based on a person's income and the number of children they have.

CCS is a non-taxable payment that aims to assist clients with dependent children to undertake and remain in employment, education or training which a client can receive for up to 50 hours a week. You can find more general information about CCS on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/childcare-subsidy.html.

In response to question one of your request, please see **Table One** overleaf.

Table One: Number of current Child Care subsidies as at the end of each quarter from December 2018 to June 2020

As at Quarter ending	Number of subsidies
December 2018	16,262
March 2019	22,248
June 2019	22,353
September 2019	23,813
December 2019	12,986
March 2020	21,682
June 2020	15,631

Notes:

- The previous two minimum wage adjustments occurred in April 2019 and April 2020.

With reference to your request for the number of applications and requests for CCS since the country went into Alert Level 2, the Ministry is unable to provide the information in the form which you have requested as it is outside the Ministry's standard reporting. For this reason, the Ministry is also unable to provide the number of applications that remain outstanding. To meet the intent of your request, the Ministry has provided the number of applications processed broken down by the outcome in **Table Two** below.

Table Two: Number of CCS applications processed for each quarter from 01 January 2020 to 30 June 2020, broken down by the applications granted and declined

Quarter	Processed	Granted	Declined
March 2020	15,125	12,578	2,547
June 2020	5,219	4,130	1,089
Total	20,344	16,708	3,636

Notes:

- This is a count of applications granted or declined, not a count of clients.
- A client may have more than one grant or decline in a period.
- Processed applications are the sum of all approved and all declined applications.

The expected timeframe for processing CCS applications is five working days. More information about the Ministry's application process can be located on the Work and Income website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/online-services/apply/online-application-process-mymysd.html.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. 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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Child Care subsidies since the last two minimum wage adjustments and CCS applications made during Alert Level 2, 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.

Nāku noa, nā



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