



12 MAR 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 26 January 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*'About how many people are on a training allowance in NZ with support from WINZ?'*

Training Incentive Allowance (TIA) provides non-taxable assistance to clients receiving certain types of benefits to undertake employment related training, and who do not have the necessary work skills, qualifications or recent work experience to obtain employment in the labour market.

The Training Incentive Allowance can be paid as an ongoing weekly amount or as a lump sum grant paid at the beginning of the course, or as a combination of both.

Additional information regarding the TIA is available on the Work and Income website at the following weblinks:

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/education-and-employment-related-training.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/education-and-employment-related-training.html#null)

[www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/employment-and-training/employment-and-work-readiness-assistance/education-and-employment-related-training-01.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/employment-and-training/employment-and-work-readiness-assistance/education-and-employment-related-training-01.html)

I can advise you that 813 clients received a TIA in the 2018 calendar year and there were 749 clients who received TIA in the 2019 calendar year.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the number of people on training allowances in New Zealand, 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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Bridget Saunders', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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