



30 June 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your letter dated 20 May 2025, received by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) on 30 May 2025, requesting a copy of the ministerial directives relating to applying for a benefit, stand down times, Special Needs Grants and Advances.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Your request for a copy of the ministerial directive relating to Advances is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as this information is already publicly available. You can find a copy online at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/ministerial-directions/advance-payment-of-benefits-direction/advance-payment-of-benefits.html.

Your requests for copies of the ministerial directives relating to applying for a benefit, stand down times and Special Needs Grants are refused under section 18(e) of the Act as no such documents exist. Assistance available through the Ministry, that is subject to a Ministerial direction is available at the following link: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/ministerial-directions/index.html>.

In the interest of being helpful, I have included links to general information about the topics you have requested, which are available on the Ministry's website:

- Applying for a benefit
www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/core-policy/requests-for-financial-assistance/application-for-benefit/index.html
- Stand down times
www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/initial-stand-down/index.html
- SNGs
www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/legislation/welfare-programmes/special-needs-grants-programme/index.html.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services