

2 May 2025

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 2 April 2025, requesting information about New Zealand Superannuation (NZS).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *Number of NZ'ers entitled to NZ Super also receiving US pensions*

Please refer to the table below which provides the information you have requested.

Benefit	Number of Clients	Sum annual rate	Mean annual rate	Median annual rate
New Zealand Superannuation	876	\$14,806,572.60	\$16,863.98	\$17,703.12

Notes:

- This table reports the amount of deductible pensions from the USA that the Ministry have records of.
- The annualised rate is obtained by converting the USA currency into New Zealand dollars.
- This is an estimate only as exchange rates may change each week.
- This the amount of payments from USA, but may not reflect the total amount of benefits and supplementary assistance that the client finally receives.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

- *Of those receiving US pensions - how much do they receive – and what impact/ reduction does that have on average on their NZ Super payments – as a dollar amount. (Or a total amount if an average isn't available)*

NZ Super recipients who also receive a US Pension receive an estimated \$14,806,572.60 NZD annually across all clients, as shown in the table above.

This amount is estimated by converting the total received in USD into NZD at the end of March 2025. This cannot be broken down into individual amounts for each client.

Please note, the rate of US pension that is directly deductible under section 187 of the Social Security Act 2018 is different for each client. There is no set rate that is deductible across all clients and as a result, clients will have different rates of New NZS payments. As such, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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.

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 regarding New Zealand Superannuation, 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