



21 May 2025

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 22 April 2025, requesting a breakdown of welfare payments made to permanent residents or visa holders in the past ten years.

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

Please find the information requested attached in **Appendix A**.

Please note that due to changes in the Ministry's data systems in 2016, we have been unable to provide data prior to this point.

Your request for the total amount of welfare spending by benefit type is refused 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](mailto: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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**