



15 April 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 19 March 2026, requesting information relating to food grants requested, approved, and declined at the Newtown service centre in Wellington for the years 2020 to 2026.

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

The Ministry is currently unable to provide data for months December 2025 and January 2026, due to system issues. We are currently working through these issues and will provide an update on our website in due course, and you are welcome to get back in touch with us with a further request, should you wish to receive that data, once the issue is resolved.

For the present time, the data for December 2025 – January 2026 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 currently 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.

As such, we have provided you with the most up to date data that we have available.

Please see **Appendix One** attached, which details the number of applications for a food Special Needs Grant (SNG) granted and declined in Newtown service centre during the period 1 January 2020 to 28 February 2026.

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