



9 February 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 2 December 2025 requesting information relating to the New Zealand Seasonal Work Scheme (NZSWS) in the Western Bay of Plenty and Tauranga City Council areas.

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.

- *The number of people who accessed the Scheme's 'Support with costs' and 'Accommodation costs payments' in both WBOPDC area and in TCC area in 2024 and 2025 (to date).*
- *The number of people who accessed the 'Incentive payment' in the scheme; in both WBOPDC area and TCC area in 2024 and 2025 to date.*

Please find attached **Appendix One** containing the following data tables:

- **Table One:** The number of clients who received ad-hoc payments for New Zealand Seasonal Work Scheme (NZSWS) during 2024 and 2025, broken down by Territorial Local Authority, year and payment types.
- **Table Two:** The number of clients who received ongoing weekly payments for NZSWS during 2024 and 2025, broken down by Territorial Local Authority, year and payment types.

Please note, a client may receive more than one payment type within the same time period. In which case, they are counted under each applicable payment type. Territorial Local Authority is estimated based on the client's address recorded by the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) at the time.

- *If available provide statistics on how many people in 1. and 2 above who worked in kiwifruit sector, or if that detail not available, then in horticulture sector in 2024 and 2025 to date.*

I am unable to provide you with this exact information as it is held in notes on individual case files. Anecdotally, however, we can confirm that a significant volume of the clients who received payments in **Appendix One** would have received these for the kiwifruit or horticulture sectors.

To provide you with an exact figure, Ministry staff would have to manually review a large number of files. The Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Act. 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.

- *Any other information that provides intel on uptake of the Seasonal Work Scheme in WBOPDC area and TCC area.*

The Ministry is not aware of any other information that advises on the uptake of the NZSWS outside of the data provided in **Appendix One**.

If you have any further questions or queries around the NZSWS, you can reach out to Adam Adkins – Regional Labour Market Manager Bay of Plenty at Adam.Adkins001@msd.govt.nz.

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