



13 February 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 31 December 2025, requesting information about Ministry of Social Development (Ministry) clients in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation (NZS).

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

- 1. The number of pensioners who have had their NZ Super deducted under the direct deduction policy over the past 12 months who qualified for NZ Super under the same eligibility criteria anyone else would require (without relying on residence totalisation from Social Security Agreements), and*
- 2. The number of pensioners who would not otherwise have qualified for NZ Super and only received NZ Super by virtue of the totalisation from Social Security Agreements that have had their pensions deducted using the direct deduction policy, and*
- 3. The number of pensioners who would not otherwise qualified for NZ Super and only received NZ Super by virtue of the totalisation from Social Security Agreements that have not had their pensions deducted using the direct deduction policy.*

In response to the first part of Question 1 of your request, please refer to the table in the attached **Appendix** which provides the number of Overseas Pension deductions to New Zealand Superannuation as at end of December 2025. Note that this includes all direct deductions, as the Ministry does not centrally report whether a client has met the residency criteria for NZS using a Social Security Agreement.

I am refusing this part of Question 1 and the other remaining parts of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. 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, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written in a cursive style.

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services



Appendix

The number of Overseas Pension deductions to New Zealand Superannuation as at end of December 2025.

Country	Number of Overseas Pension Deductions
Albania	3
Argentina	6
Australia	22,032
Austria	30
Azerbaijan	3
Bahamas	3
Belarus	3
Belgium	45
Bermuda	3
Bosnia and Herzegovina	6
Brazil	9
Bulgaria	27
Canada	3,987
Chile	9
China, Peoples Republic of	207
Colombia	3
Cook Islands	9
Croatia	57
Czech Republic	15
Denmark	150
Ecuador	3

Egypt	12
Falkland Islands	3
Fiji	84
Finland	6
France	159
French Polynesia	3
German Democratic Republic (East)	3
Germany	816
Ghana	3
Greece	6
Guernsey	132
Hong Kong	3
Hungary	21
Ireland	504
Isle of Man	33
Israel	3
Italy	15
Jamaica	3
Japan	336
Jersey	126
Kazakhstan	3
Korea, Republic of	183
Latvia	3
Lithuania	6
Macau	3
Macedonia, The Former Yugoslav Republic	48
Malaysia	9
Malta	9
Mauritius	3

Mexico	3
Montenegro	3
New Caledonia	15
Norway	24
Peru	3
Philippines	1,056
Poland	48
Portugal	3
Romania	42
Russian Federation	180
Samoa, American	3
Samoa, Western	15
Serbia	39
Singapore	165
Slovakia	6
Slovenia	3
Spain	3
Sri Lanka	18
Sudan	3
Sweden	177
Switzerland	657
Tahiti	3
Taiwan	813
Thailand	156
The Netherlands	4,464
Turkey	6
Turks & Caicos	3
Ukraine	6
United Kingdom	55,311

United States of America	915
Venezuela	3
Vietnam	15
Zimbabwe	3
Total	93,312

Notes:

- This is a count of overseas pensions, not clients. A client may receive more than one overseas pension.
- The country given is where the Overseas Pension is paid from.
- This data includes only New Zealand Superannuation clients.
- Figures are current as at the time of reporting. However, these may be subject to change due to new historical information being recorded into MSD systems.
- Post-June 2016 numbers and deductions are calculated using an improved methodology, which excludes some OSP records that are in the system but not deducted from the recipients NZS.
- This includes people who are paid via Special Banking Option or people who receive an overseas pension directly and a reduced NZ payment.
- 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.
- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.