



18 February 2026

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 15 January 2026, requesting the number of new Jobseeker Support recipients from 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025, by month.

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

Attached please find **Appendix Jobseeker Support grants between 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2025**, by first grant or subsequent grant, that addresses your request.

Please note the table is a count of grants, not the number of clients. A client may have multiple grants.

On 15 July 2013, Welfare Reform changes took effect, where three new benefits replaced most of the previous benefits: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, and Supported Living Payment.

Please note that the list of first time Jobseeker Support grants doesn't consider if the person was getting Unemployment Benefit prior to July 2013 (i.e. it gets counted as a separate benefit even though it is equivalent).

The Government's priority is to ensure the welfare system is focused on supporting people into employment and preventing benefit dependency in the long term.

There are a range of barriers to entering employment that a person may face, depending on their specific circumstances. This could include, for example, a lack of work experience or incomplete education, skills mismatches with local jobs available, or other barriers such as childcare obligations.

The Ministry currently offers a range of employment programmes and services that can support people out of unemployment and help them into and remain in work that improves their economic outcomes.

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**