



13 May 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 15 April 2026, to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry), requesting the evaluation of the Food Secure Communities programme, and data on Jobseeker Support benefit reapplications.

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.

- *How many, if any, Jobseeker Support benefits were reapplied for after expiring at 26 weeks, broken down by month since 1 July 2025?*

Thank you for your response to the Ministry's email to you on 23 April 2026 in which the Ministry sought clarification on the above part of your request. We apologise for not responding to your email as we were working through the data we could provide to you.

To address the above part of your request, we have provided you with the number of suspended Jobseeker Support benefits due to 26-week reapplication and subsequently resumed or regranted within 20 working days between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, by month, in the below **Appendix**.

We believe the data provided closely meets the scope of your request. However, please contact the Ministry if this is not the case.

- *The evaluation of the Food Secure Communities programme, funded through Budget 2025 to "assess the impact of the programme within the wider food eco-system to enable decisions on supporting more enduring outcomes in food security for communities".*

Your request for the response on the evaluation of the Food Secure Communities programme is refused under section 18(d) of the Act, on the basis that the information requested will soon be publicly available. The information will be published on the following webpage within the next six weeks: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/index.html.

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



Appendix

Number of suspended Jobseeker Support benefits due to 26-week reapplication (code 293) and subsequently resumed or regranted within 20 working days between 1 July 2025 and 31 March 2026, by month.

Month	Number of JS Suspended	Number of JS resumed within 20 working days of suspension	Number of JS granted within 20 working days of suspension
August 2025	8,907	7,347	342
September 2025	9,384	7,704	456
October 2025	9,276	7,431	486
November 2025	8,361	6,441	624
December 2025	9,849	7,557	666
January 2026	8,673	6,603	627
February 2026	8,586	6,396	684
March 2026	10,089	7,710	819

Table notes:

- 26-week reapplication process started from July 2025.
- This is a count of suspension, resumption, or grant, not clients. A client can have more than one suspension, resumption, or grant in each time period.
- A client can have multiple resumptions or grants following a benefit suspension, but only the first resumption or grant after the suspension date is counted.
- This includes client whose Jobseeker Support was resumed or re-granted. Clients whose benefit were resumed or granted under other benefit types were excluded.

- A resumed or granted Jobseeker Support does not necessarily mean that a client completed 26-week reapplication. A client's Jobseeker Support may be resumed or granted for other reasons.
- JS is Jobseeker Support.
- 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.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.