



- 9 JUN 2017

Mr Tim Newman
fyi-request-5885-2be3d6c7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Newman,

On 16 May 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I would like to request information on the amount of money paid out by the government, over the last five years, to beneficiaries who have made claims under 'deported to New Zealand' benefit.*

Specifically over the past five years (with a year-by-year breakdown):

- *How much money has been paid out?*
- *How many applicants have been granted benefits in that category?*
- *How many applicants have been turned down?*
- *How many have applied for that particular benefit?*
- *What countries applicants have been deported from?*
- *Whether applicant numbers have decreased or increased over that time period?*

The information you seek cannot be provided as no such benefit exists. Individuals who have been deported to New Zealand may be eligible for the same benefits that are available to all New Zealanders. Therefore, your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as this information does not exist. More information regarding the supports available to individuals who have been deported to New Zealand is available at: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/lost-job/deported-to-new-zealand.html.

In processing your request, the Ministry looked at whether information regarding individuals who have been deported to New Zealand who have accessed benefits or grants was readily accessible. Unfortunately, this information is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such a request for this information would likely be refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

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 this response regarding benefits for individuals who have been deported to New Zealand, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elisabeth Brunt'.

 Elisabeth Brunt
General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Services