



# MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140  
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11 SEP 2014

Mr Robert Latimer  
<mailto:fyi-request-1904-2f2a59dc@requests.fyi.org.nz>

Dear Mr Latimer

Thank you for your emails of 15 August 2014 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *I understand that New Zealand Superannuation benefits are reduced by a total of about \$200 million per year because of section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 and benefits received from the UK age pension and SERPS programmes.*

*Please provide an actual number for the latest completed financial period and also provide a breakdown of that number between reductions on account of the UK age pension and reductions on account of the UK SERPS programme.*

- *I understand that New Zealand Superannuation benefits are reduced by a total of about \$2 million per year because of section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 and benefits received from the Canadian Old Age Security programme and the Canada Pension Plan.*

*Please provide an actual number for the latest completed financial period and also provide a breakdown of that number between reductions on account of the Canadian Old Age Security benefit and reductions on account of Canada Pension Plan pensions.*

As you are aware, section 70 of the Social Security Act 1964 provides that where a person receives a retirement type overseas pension that is administered by or on behalf of the government of the overseas country paying the pension, that person's New Zealand Superannuation will be reduced by the amount of the overseas pension, as calculated in accordance with regulations. Section 70 also requires that where an overseas pension is in excess of that person's New Zealand Superannuation entitlement, the amount of that excess must be deducted from their spouse's New Zealand Superannuation.

I can advise you that the total annualised amount deducted from New Zealand Superannuation as at June 2014 for people receiving a United Kingdom Pension Plan is \$185,351,194. The total annualised amount deducted from New Zealand Superannuation as at June 2014 for people receiving a Canada Pension Plan is \$5,728,815. Please note that these annualised amounts are based on the present exchange rate, and may be subject to change as the exchange rate fluctuates.

The Ministry does not report whether the amount deducted was from a Canadian Pension Plan or Canadian Old Age Security benefit. Similarly the amounts of United Kingdom State Pensions and SERPS are combined as one amount in the Ministry's

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reporting system. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review tens of thousands of individual files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information 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.

I am sorry I cannot be more helpful on this occasion. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely



 Debbie Power  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Work and Income**