



2 December 2015

Neil Budgen

fyi-request-3349-0ab1deeb@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DOIA 1516-0636

Dear Mr Budgen

Thank you for your email of 9 November 2015 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

“Total number of full time employees (eg 30 hrs+) earning the minimum wage total number of these who are drawing state benefits. Average dollar value of benefit paid to these people”

The Ministry does not hold any information on the total number of full time employees earning minimum wage, therefore your request for this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, that the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

In reference to your second question regarding people receiving state benefits, the Ministry has consulted with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) who stated that statistics on the number of beneficiaries who work 30 or more hours per week, and are paid the minimum wage, are not produced. MSD also noted that in most cases a person in that situation would not qualify for a benefit due to how income affects benefit amounts (abatement rates). More information on the effect of income on benefits is available on the Work and Income website:

<http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/on-a-benefit/tell-us/income/wages/deduction-tables/>

You have the right under section 28(3) of the Act to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision to refuse your request. The relevant contact details are:

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

Ph 0800 802 602
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

This fully covers the information you requested.

Yours sincerely



David Paterson
Manager, Labour Market Trends
Institutions and Systems Performance