



28 April 2026

Tēnā koe Rose Calix

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 8 April 2026, requesting a breakdown of beneficiary overseas holidays from 1 July 2025 to present, including amount paid, and expected travel.

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

Your request for the numbers of beneficiaries who have travelled overseas during FY2025/2026, total amount of days spent overseas, and the total amounts paid to beneficiaries during this period while overseas is being refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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.

Regarding your request for how many beneficiaries are expected to travel overseas during the remainder of 2026, for the Act to apply, the information you are requesting must already be held at the time the request is received. There is no obligation on an agency to form an opinion or create new information to answer a request, except when providing a statement of reasons explaining a decision that has affected the requester. The Ministry is therefore not obliged to answer this question under the Act, as it is not asking for information that is already held.

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 for a breakdown of beneficiary overseas holidays from 1 July 2025 to present, including amount paid, and expected travel, 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

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Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services