



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

- 1 FEB 2016

Mr Shane Le Brun

fyi-request-3543-6f89e989@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Le Brun

On 13 January 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *A breakdown of Special Benefit recipients for the financial year ending June 2015, who remain on the Special Benefit due to the following medical conditions: Multiple Sclerosis, Epilepsy/seizure disorders, HIV/AIDS, Bowel conditions, Pain conditions and Arthritis.*

As you know, Work and Income provides financial assistance to assist those people whose regular essential living costs cannot be met from their income and other resources. These essential costs may relate to medical conditions, for example medical costs or prescription costs. Prior to 1 April 2006, this assistance was in the form of a Special Benefit. From 1 April 2006, Special Benefit was replaced with Temporary Additional Support (TAS).

I am unable to provide you with the information you have requested as it 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 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.

More information is available on the Ministry's Benefit fact sheets. Jobseeker Support and Supported Living Payment – Health Condition or Disability (HCD) characteristics are detailed here:

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/post-sep-2013/jobseeker-support/september-2015-quarter.html

www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/post-sep-2013/supported-living-payment/september-2015-quarter.html

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response regarding the Special Benefit by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bound', with a large circular flourish above the name.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery

Handwritten initials 'RP' in black ink, positioned to the left of the typed name.