



19 August 2021

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), received on 27 July 2021. You requested:

1. *Best start grant I want to know how many people applied for a best start grant from January 2017–Jan 2018*
2. *Paid Parental Leave How many people applied for PPL from Jan 2017–Jan 2018*

On 2 August 2021, you amended your request to:

1. *Best start grant I want to know how many people applied for a best start grant from 1 July 2018 through to the present day (2 August 2021)*
2. *Paid Parental Leave How many people applied for PPL from Jan 2015–Jan 2020*

On 2 and 8 August 2021, we confirmed with you that we are interpreting your request to be for the numbers of people who have applied for and received Best Start and Paid Parental Leave ("recipients").

**Question 1: Number of people receiving Best Start from 1 July 2018–2 August 2021**

Working for Families, which includes the Best Start tax credit (Best Start), is administered by two government agencies: Inland Revenue and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). Inland Revenue holds comprehensive information for Working for Families recipients who have interacted with Inland Revenue, and only partial information for other recipients.

If Best Start is administered only by MSD, Inland Revenue can identify the number of Working for Families receiving families, but not necessarily the number of children, the Best Start component of their Working for Families entitlement, or whether there is a partner.

Information about Best Start administered by Inland Revenue is provided to you in Tables 1 and 2. Information is provided from July 2018 to July 2021, as this is the latest date for which data is available.

Information for the first two days of August 2021, and about Best Start administered only by MSD, is refused under section 18(g) of the OIA, as the information is not held by Inland Revenue.

Table 1 shows the number of families who received regular Best Start payments. The table shows the first month that each family received the payments. Table 1 includes applications for a subsequent child.

Table 2 shows the number of families who are not in Table 1 but who received a lump-sum entitlement of Best Start from Inland Revenue at the end of the March tax year (years ending 31 March).

In Table 2, the first year (2018–19 tax year) has significantly smaller numbers because it captures only the first nine months of Best Start, and because a person's entitlement to Best Start begins only after they are no longer entitled to Paid Parental Leave.

**Question 2: Number of people receiving Paid Parental Leave from January 2015 to January 2020**

The information you requested about Paid Parental Leave recipients is provided in Table 3. The number of applications that were accepted is shown by the month of the first payment.

**Right of Review**

If you disagree with my decision on your OIA request, you can ask an Inland Revenue review officer to review my decision. To ask for an internal review, please email the Commissioner of Inland Revenue at: [CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz](mailto:CommissionersCorrespondence@ird.govt.nz).

Alternatively, under section 28(3) of the OIA, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision. You can contact the office of the Ombudsman by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Thank you again for your request.

Yours sincerely



Sandra Watson  
**Forecasting & Analysis Manager**

**Attached:**

- Table 1: *Number of first Best Start payments made by Inland Revenue from July 2018 to July 2021*
- Table 2: *Number of families with lump-sum payments of Best Start in 2019, 2020 and 2021*
- Table 3: *Number of people receiving Paid Parental Leave (successful applications) by month received from January 2015 to January 2020*

**Table 1:** *Number of first Best Start payments made by Inland Revenue from July 2018 to July 2021*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of families</b>
Jul-18	600
Aug-18	1,466
Sep-18	1,282
Oct-18	1,731
Nov-18	3,131
Dec-18	2,744
Jan-19	3,685
Feb-19	2,903
Mar-19	2,967
Apr-19	3,176
May-19	4,411
Jun-19	3,372
Jul-19	4,538
Aug-19	3,977
Sep-19	4,227
Oct-19	3,510
Nov-19	3,983
Dec-19	4,009
Jan-20	3,685
Feb-20	3,644
Mar-20	3,900
Apr-20	3,199
May-20	3,933
Jun-20	3,909
Jul-20	3,848
Aug-20	4,155
Sep-20	3,489
Oct-20	3,580
Nov-20	3,821
Dec-20	2,935
Jan-21	3,576
Feb-21	3,661
Mar-21	4,175
Apr-21	3,573
May-21	4,486
Jun-21	3,496
Jul-21	3,567

**Table 2:** *Number of families with lump-sum payments of Best Start in 2019, 2020 and 2021*

<b>Tax year</b>	<b>Number of families</b>
2018-19	2,966
2019-20	6,126
2020-21	6,888

**Table 3:** *Number of people receiving Paid Parental Leave (successful applications) by month from January 2015 to January 2020*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of recipients</b>
Jan-15	2,317
Feb-15	2,447
Mar-15	2,571
Apr-15	2,127
May-15	2,323
Jun-15	2,421
Jul-15	2,395
Aug-15	2,240
Sep-15	2,422
Oct-15	2,034
Nov-15	2,448
Dec-15	1,940
Jan-16	2,278
Feb-16	2,503
Mar-16	2,556
Apr-16	2,407
May-16	2,549
Jun-16	2,336
Jul-16	2,394
Aug-16	2,659
Sep-16	2,574
Oct-16	2,329
Nov-16	2,563
Dec-16	2,180
Jan-17	2,686
Feb-17	2,523
Mar-17	2,865
Apr-17	2,234
May-17	2,905
Jun-17	2,540
Jul-17	2,619
Aug-17	2,765
Sep-17	2,473
Oct-17	2,432
Nov-17	2,392
Dec-17	2,147
Jan-18	3,015
Feb-18	2,546
Mar-18	2,723
<b>Apr-18</b>	<b>2,456</b>

May-18	3,153
Jun-18	2,491
Jul-18	2,921
Aug-18	3,004
Sep-18	2,569
Oct-18	2,938
Nov-18	3,248
Dec-18	2,542
Jan-19	2,917
Feb-19	3,018
Mar-19	3,083
Apr-19	2,613
May-19	3,610
Jun-19	2,881
Jul-19	3,326
Aug-19	3,238
Sep-19	3,242
Oct-19	2,929
Nov-19	3,046
Dec-19	2,635
Jan-20	3,098