

Reference: 20200319



9 October 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 4 September 2020.
You requested:

I am seeking information about how the 03 September 2020 23:59NZST closing date for applications was selected for the Resurgence Wage Subsidy - such as what aims, considerations there were in its policy development. Where documented, otherwise if undocumented from the knowledge of workers; including under the Official Information Act.

For comparative purposes (including level of considerations), I have a secondary interest in information about the opening date for applications; regardless that it is unrelated to the closing date for applications.

The last proactive information release appears to be 31 July 2020 (as retrieved 04 September 2020 16:36NZST):

<https://covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/legislation-and-key-documents/proactive-release/wage-subsidy-and-leave-schemes/>

Nor am I aware of any impending releases.

Similarly I am not aware of any information elsewhere about why 03 September 2020 was selected as the closing date for applications.

Aside: I note that for this subsidy the 03 September 2020 application closing date is relatively early compared with the potential qualifying income hardship period (within 12 August 2020 and 10 September 2020, compared revenue drop with similar period in 2019). (FYI: The chief thing I am evaluating is that in my opinion the early application closing date has limited the potential range of qualifying applications, including consequentially with other criteria such as only receiving one assistance type at a time. Especially considering timing impacts as various assistance types are specifically linked to application dates, rather than the broader hardship qualifying periods.) I do appreciate the Government's and departments' rapid responses, including the various Wage Subsidies. I am non-media.

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<https://treasury.govt.nz>

In the first instance would you please provide a reply e-mail so I know you received this 04Sep2020 e-mail.

I welcome a preliminary response of what may be known, particularly if there are greater delays in gathering or releasing substantiating documents. Also an indication of roughly how long it may be to supply the information.

Errors and omissions excepted.

Information publicly available

The following information is covered by your request and will soon be publicly available on the Treasury website.

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
1.	14 August 2020	Treasury Report: Options for extending Wage Subsidy Support under a COVID-19 resurgence	https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the document listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act – the information requested is or will soon be publicly available. We will write to you again to let you know once the information is published.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and enclosed documents may be published on the Treasury website.

This reply addresses the information you requested. You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision.

Yours sincerely



Keiran Kennedy
Manager, Welfare and Oranga Tamariki