

Reference: 20230193

17 May 2023



Dear 

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 20 April 2023. You requested:

I see that in the excel s/s for this page (<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2017-05/befu17-data-expensetables.xlsx>) from <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/efu/budget-economic-and-fiscal-update-2017#formats>), table 6.2, there is a breakdown of social security expenses for 2012 to 2016. Does the Treasury have data for earlier (preferably back to 1994) and later years in a spreadsheet? If so, I would like a copy for my research into different types of social security expenditure. If it is not available I will work through the BEFU documents and create one. Ideally I want the 'other' category as small as possible, but any data is better than none.

Secondly, in the long-term fiscal data (<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/data-fiscal-time-series-historical-fiscal-indicators>) is it possible to separate out agriculture and farming from Crown expense classes, preferably back to 1994? I think agriculture and farming (including marine and forestry) might be included in column O in the spreadsheet - the column where environmental is spelled in an unusual way.

Information being released

Budget Update 2017, Table 6.2 refers to the Welfare benefit expense table breakdown. We have therefore provided you with the historical welfare benefit expense table data in an excel workbook for the period 2000 – 2022 (Item 1) and have provided a link to the most recent forecast (Half Year Economic and Fiscal Update 2022) which shows the forecast information for Welfare Benefits (please see Item 3).

The information referred to in the second part of your request is also a breakdown of core Crown expenditure. We do not have the specific information available to split out and provide, but we have attached a total of the Primary Services information included in the “other” breakdown (Please see Item 2). There is a slight variance in the table we

have provided you to the information included in the published long term fiscal data that you have referred to, due to the Government Superannuation Fund expenses not being included long term fiscal data prior to 2020.

Please find enclosed the following documents:

Item	Date	Title	Description
1.	1 May 2023	Welfare benefit expense history	Released in full.
2.	1 May 2023	Long term fiscal breakdown - Other breakdown	Released in full.

Information publicly available

The following information is also covered by your request and is publicly available on the Treasury website:

Item	Date	Document Description	Website Address
3.	14 December 2022	Half Year Economic and Fiscal Update 2022 - Expense Tables	Half Year Economic and Fiscal Update 2022 (treasury.govt.nz)

Accordingly, I have refused your request for the documents listed in the above table under section 18(d) of the Official Information Act:

- the information requested is or will soon be publicly available.

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

Kamlesh Patel
Deputy Chief Government Accountant

(\$millions)	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Actual	2003 Actual	2004 Actual	2005 Actual	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	2008 Actual	2009 Actual	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual
Heritage, culture and recreation	427	400	434	515	634	991	891	523	561	586	630	741	863	804	842	778	787	850	850	918	1,106	1,420	1,468
Primary services	256	279	304	355	368	394	467	438	541	534	507	706	648	659	676	667	749	644	807	960	961	1,015	949
Housing and community development	63	50	93	102	139	163	202	255	260	297	339	943	(46)	283	347	320	558	539	552	727	1,015	1,813	2,033
Environmental protection								321	546	416	651	1,225	769	530	533	723	587	871	1,238	1,119	1,485	1,906	2,549
GSF pension expenses	617	575	676	541	591	718	761	645	690	655	328	305	192	278	282	358	271	217	150	66	73	99	94
Other	46	75	110	75	52	32	49	68	254	117	80	479	425	603	579	145	461	181	299	96	63	254	269
Total	1,409	1,379	1,617	1,588	1,784	2,298	2,370	2,250	2,852	2,605	2,535	4,399	2,851	3,157	3,259	2,991	3,413	3,302	3,896	3,886	4,703	6,507	7,362
<i>Total per Fiscal Timeseries</i>	792	804	941	1,047	1,193	1,580	1,609	1,605	2,162	1,950	2,207	4,094	2,659	2,879	2,977	2,633	3,142	3,085	3,746	3,820	4,703	6,507	7,362
<i>Variance</i>	(617)	(575)	(676)	(541)	(591)	(718)	(761)	(645)	(690)	(655)	(328)	(305)	(192)	(278)	(282)	(358)	(271)	(217)	(150)	(66)	0	0	0

<https://www.treasury.govt.nz/publications/information-release/data-fiscal-time-series-historical-fiscal-indicators>

Variance explanation GSF pension expenses were not included in the Fiscal Timeseries table prior to 2020.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
(\$millions)	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
Welfare benefit expenses																	
New Zealand Superannuation	5,068	5,273	5,450	5,642	5,889	6,083	6,414	6,810	7,348	7,744	8,290	8,830	9,584	10,235	10,913	11,591	12,267
Jobseeker Support and Emergency Benefit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,691	1,684	1,671
Supported living payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,422	1,515	1,523
Sole parent support	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,222	1,186	1,153
Family Tax Credit	899	878	848	862	833	846	1,285	1,699	1,897	2,053	2,159	2,130	2,071	2,018	1,965	1,854	1,793
Other working for families tax credits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	614	620	629	616	599	575	567	549	559
Accommodation Assistance	867	795	720	706	702	750	843	877	891	989	1,154	1,197	1,195	1,177	1,146	1,129	1,164
Income-Related Rents	..	161	274	296	340	370	395	434	465	512	522	553	580	611	660	703	755
Disability Assistance	204	210	224	241	257	267	261	270	278	390	411	409	401	384	379	377	377
Covid leave support	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Winter energy	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Best start	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Orphan's/Unsupported Child's Benefit	35	38	41	46	51	56	64	70	81	88	101	108	111	114	122	132	143
Hardship Assistance	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	227	270	272	264	271	271	277	290
Paid Parental Leave	..	..	..	56	63	76	96	122	135	143	154	154	158	165	165	180	217
Child Support Payments	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Childcare Assistance	..	..	..	..	58	79	110	139	150	159	178	188	188	186	186	183	182
Veteran's Support Entitlement	..	..	..	..	102	107	113	122	134	125	137	135	128	123	119	115	107
Veteran's Pension	..	..	..	..	110	119	128	143	161	176	179	178	177	171	165	178	186
Wage Subsidy Scheme	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other benefits	4,999	5,030	5,057	5,035	4,776	4,573	4,537	4,749	4,134	4,140	4,777	5,011	4,919	4,759	194	27	54
Welfare benefit expenses	12,072	12,385	12,614	12,884	13,181	13,326	14,246	15,435	16,288	17,366	18,961	19,781	20,375	20,789	21,187	21,680	22,441

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
13,043	13,699	14,562	15,521	16,569	17,764
1,697	1,697	1,854	2,285	3,224	3,330
1,533	1,541	1,556	1,650	1,826	2,047
1,159	1,117	1,115	1,231	1,455	1,704
1,723	1,639	2,131	2,189	2,103	2,017
596	556	635	641	585	519
1,127	1,204	1,640	1,923	2,302	2,386
815	890	974	1,071	1,202	1,323
377	379	386	395	409	412
..	..	..	..	..	471
..	..	441	669	812	513
..	..	48	184	271	308
152	165	225	248	293	313
353	355	300	418	479	497
274	288	369	422	503	603
..
199	196	183	144	145	132
98	93	90	66	..	..
175	163	153	145	139	134
..	..	..	12,095	1,197	4,689
18	23	27	11	157	25
23,339	24,005	26,689	41,308	33,671	39,187