



21 JUL 2017

Dear

On 15 June 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of Student Allowance applications that were declined due to the applicants being over the age of 40 and having reached the 120 week entitlement limit.*
- *The number of students who, when returning to study the following year, received Student Loan Living costs due to being declined Student Allowance, as they were over the age of 40 as at study start date, and had reached their 120 week entitlement limit.*
- *The number of weeks where a Student Loan Living Costs payment was received prior to and after a Student Allowance was declined due to the 120 week limit.*

The below table shows the number of students aged 40 years and over with a declined Student Allowance broken down by whether or not they received Student Loan Living Costs in the following year, by calendar year from 2014.

<b>Year Student Allowance first declined</b>	<b>Did not receive Living Costs the following year</b>	<b>Received Living Costs the following year</b>	<b>Total number of students</b>
2014	116	60	176
2015	396	153	549
2016	153	(as at 31 May 17) 79	232

**Note:**

- Decline year was the first year Student Allowance was declined.

For the period 1 January to 31 May 2017, 166 students have had their Student Allowance declined due to reaching the 120 week limit and being aged 40 or over. The total number of students who apply for Living Costs in 2018, after having their Student Allowance declined in 2017, will be available in 2019.

In order to provide the number of weeks where a Student Loan Living Costs payment was received prior to and after a Student Allowance was declined due to the 120 week limit, the Ministry would need to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to complete this task. The diversion of these resources would impair the Ministry's ability to continue standard operations and would be an inefficient use of the Ministry's resources. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, requires substantial collation. 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 part of 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.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

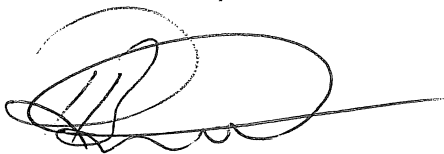
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ruth Bound', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**