



24 NOV 2017

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On 6 November 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*For the past financial year:*

- *How many of your student loan borrowers that are still receiving living cost payments, die in a year?*
- *For how many borrowers from the segment above Cause of Death states "Subject to Coroner's findings", indicating even more tragic situation?*
- *For both segments above, what is the average number of payments between person's death and the date the loan is suspended?*

I am able to provide you with two tables, showing the number of students who died while in receipt of Student Loan Living Costs, and the average number of weeks Student Loan Living Costs were paid into the accounts of students who died. To provide you a full picture, information for the past five financial years is included.

As you were advised on 15 November 2017, the Ministry does not record 'Subject to Coroner's findings' in cause of death. Such deaths would be under the 'Not recorded' or 'Don't know' categories, which may be used for a variety of reasons. As you requested, table 1 below separates these two categories from all others. To ensure you were provided with as fulsome an answer as possible, I consulted with the Office of the Coroner, who are also unable to provide this information.

**Table 1: Total number of students who died while in receipt of Student Loan Living Costs broken down by those recorded under 'Not recorded' or 'Don't know' and by all other categories, and by financial year from 2012/13 to 2016/17.**

Year	Recorded under 'Not recorded' or 'Don't know'	Recorded under all other categories	Total
<b>2012/2013</b>	22	4	26
<b>2013/2014</b>	10	6	16
<b>2014/2015</b>	10	8	18
<b>2015/2016</b>	s	s	6
<b>2016/2017</b>	15	5	20

Note: 's' represents numbers less than 4 that have been suppressed to protect the privacy of individuals, and secondary suppression rules have also been applied when required.

**Table 2: the mean and median number of weeks Student Loan Living Costs were paid into the accounts of students who died, broken down by financial year from 2012/13 to 2016/17.**

Year	Weeks paid after deceased	
	Mean	Median
<b>2012/2013</b>	2.77	1.00
<b>2013/2014</b>	2.44	1.00
<b>2014/2015</b>	1.83	1.50
<b>2015/2016</b>	1.67	1.50
<b>2016/2017</b>	1.85	2.00

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



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