



19 DEC 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

On 15 October 2019 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of young people who have been accepted into the Youth Driver Licence Project between June 1 and September 30, broken down by region as raw figures and as a percentage of what projections/estimates indicated those figures would be at this point.*
- *Itemised cost of the Youth Driver Licence Project between June 1 and September 30 broken down by region in raw figures and as a percentage of what was budgeted for these expenses.*
- *All correspondence/communications with internal and external parties about the progress of the Youth Driver Licence Project between July 1 and today.*

In April 2019 the Government announced a \$5m partnership initiative between the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA), the Ministry, and Oranga Tamariki to provide driver licence support for up to 2,500 young people over three years or until the investment is fully utilised. The free driver licensing initiative, which commenced in June 2019, is aimed at supporting more young people to successfully obtain a class one licence for a private motor vehicle. The announcement can be found on the Beehive website at this link- [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/more-young-people-get-driver-licences](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/more-young-people-get-driver-licences).

The initiative is available to young people in receipt of the Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment and is delivered through the Ministry's Youth Service. Through the initiative, young people can access a maximum of 20 professional driving lessons and sit tests to obtain a Class One Learners and Restricted licence.

For the period 1 June 2019 to 30 September 2019, the Ministry spent \$39,105.80 on the initiative, excluding costs met by Youth Service providers which have not been invoiced to or processed by the Ministry.

Over the same period, a total of 319 young people committed to accessing the initiative. Of this figure, 140 young people have obtained a Class One licence for a private motor vehicle and 171 have been supported to access driving lessons.

In response to your first question, please see below Table One which shows the amount of Driver Commitment forms that were completed, broken down by region.

Induction into the Youth Driver License initiative consists of three aspects. These are: that the young person is in receipt of either the Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment, is enrolled in the Youth Service, and has signed a commitment form. The number of Driver Commitment Forms represents the number of people who have committed to accessing the initiative and have therefore been accepted into the initiative.

**Table One: Number of Driver Commitment Forms signed and returned between 1 June 2019 and 30 September 2019, broken down by region.**

<b>Signed Driver Commitment Forms – 1 June to 30 September 2019</b>	
<b>Regions</b>	<b>Total</b>
Auckland Metro	13
Bay of Plenty	43
Canterbury	30
Central	33
East Coast	8
Nelson	23
Northland	7
Southern	37
Taranaki	45
Waikato	29
Wellington	51
<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>

Please note that accessing the initiative is voluntary and as such the Ministry cannot accurately project the number of young people who will access the initiative over the three-year period. It should also be noted that the level of investment that is expected to be utilised each year has not been specified between the partner agencies.

As such the Ministry cannot provide percentage figures in response to questions one and two, and your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the

Official Information Act as the information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

In further response to question two, please see Table Two below which details the cost of the initiative between 1 June 2019 and 30 September 2019. The Ministry does not pay these costs directly, but rather reimburses Youth Service providers once invoices are received. As such, these initiative costs are limited to those which have been invoiced to the Ministry for reimbursement.

Please note the partnership initiative does not include the cost of sitting a Class One full license test. However, costs met by the initiative may support a young person to obtain a full license.

**Table Two: Itemised cost of the Youth Driver License Initiative between 1 June 2019 and 30 September 2019, broken down by region.**

<b>Initiative expenditure – 1 June to 30 September 2019</b>				
<b>Region</b>	<b>Lessons</b>	<b>Learner Licence</b>	<b>Restricted Licence</b>	<b>Total by region</b>
Auckland	\$0.00	\$206.80	\$145.35	\$352.15
Bay of Plenty	\$1,408.00	\$620.40	\$145.35	\$2,173.75
Canterbury	\$7,744.00	\$517.00	\$436.05	\$8,697.05
Central	\$2,992.00	\$206.80	\$145.35	\$3,344.15
East Coast	\$0.00	\$310.20	\$0.00	\$310.20
Nelson	\$1,144.00	\$206.80	\$436.05	\$1,786.85
Northland	\$0.00	\$206.80	\$290.70	\$497.50
Southern	\$4,488.00	\$723.80	\$0.00	\$5,211.80
Taranaki	\$1,936.00	\$930.60	\$290.70	\$3,157.30
Waikato	\$5,632.00	\$0.00	\$436.05	\$6,068.05
Wellington	\$6,512.00	\$413.60	\$581.40	\$7,507.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,856.00</b>	<b>\$4,342.80</b>	<b>\$2,907.00</b>	<b>\$39,105.80</b>

In response to your third and final point, please see the attached 1-page document which was provided to the Minister for Social Development on 13 September 2019 as part of an Announced Initiatives Update.

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 and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter and attachments 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 regarding the Youth Driver License Initiative, 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



Kelvin Moffatt

**General Manager, Services and Contact Management**

## Driver Licensing Initiative

We've partnered with NZTA to provide driver licence support to 2,500 young people in the Youth Service or in Oranga Tamariki care.

**319**

young people enrolled

**33**

Learner Licences achieved

**11**

Restricted Licences achieved

The partnership provides a \$5m investment from NZTA's Community Road Safety Fund to support the direct costs of obtaining a driver licence.

This investment is until 2021 or until the funds are expended. To complement this, workshops will be delivered to Youth Service providers and Oranga Tamariki on the DRIVE products.