



5 July 2022

Tēnā koe

On 5 April 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

1. *"I would really appreciate any information on the Apprenticeship Boost programme. At the highest level I'm interested in how many learners and employers have benefited from the programme by count and what percentage has supported employers and/or learners in the Construction and Infrastructure sector. I'm then interested in learner linked numbers or percentages by the following criteria (if known):*
 - *Region*
 - *Ethnicity*
 - *Gender*
 - *Linked TEO*
 - *Industry sector (if known)*
2. *I'm also interested in employer linked volume percentages by value or percentages by the following criteria (if known):*
 - *Region*
 - *Industry Sector (if known)*
 - *Number of supported/funded learners."*

On 22 April 2022, the Ministry advised you that the part of your request which relates to demographics of learners who have benefitted from the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative is not held by the Ministry but is believed to be held by the Ministry of Education (MoE). As such, this part of your request was transferred to MoE in accordance with sections 14 and 15(1) of the Act.

On 3 May 2022, the Ministry advised you that more time was required for necessary consultations to make a decision on your request. As such, your request was extended to 14 June 2022 in accordance with sections 15(1) and 15A of the Act.

On 14 June 2022, the Ministry advised you that your request had been granted in part, however, more time was required to prepare this information for release. You were advised that the information would be sent to you by 6 July 2022.

For the sake of clarity, I will address your requests in turn.

1. *How many learners and employers have benefited from the programme by count, and what percentage has supported employers in the Construction and Infrastructure sector.*

I can inform you that the total number of apprentices who have benefitted from the programme by count, from the start of the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative (5 August 2020) to 31 March 2022, is **43,209**.

The total number of employers who have benefitted from Apprenticeship Boost from the start of the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative (5 August 2020) to 31 March 2022, is **15,782**.

Regarding Apprenticeship Boost payments that have supported employers/learners in the construction and infrastructure sector, the Ministry does not record or collect information relating to the business type of applicants for Apprenticeship Boost. As such, this portion of your request is refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

However, in the spirit of being helpful, the Ministry has analysed the applications held to determine which 'apprenticeship types' in the database appear related to roles in the construction and infrastructure industry. This information is based upon terminology used in the applications where it is clear that the businesses relate to the sector (for example applications containing terms such as 'masonry' or 'plaster cladding systems').

I can inform you that that the total number of employers who appear to be in the construction and infrastructure industry who have benefitted from the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative by count, as at 31 March 2022, is **7,965**.

Please note that this figure is not definitive, and that there could be more construction and infrastructure sector businesses that applied for the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative that did not use easily identifiable terminology in their application.

2. *I'm also interested in employer linked volume percentages by value or percentages by the following criteria (if known):*

- *Region*
- *Industry Sector (if known)*
- *Number of supported/funded learners.”*

The information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation. As such, the portion of your request relating to employer-related Apprenticeship Boost Initiative data by region, industry sector and number of supported/funded learners is refused under section 18 (g)(i) of the Act.

Furthermore, this is not standard reporting for the Ministry and substantial manual collation would be required generate to the data as requested.

However, in the spirit of being helpful, the Ministry has been able to derive information specific to the construction and infrastructure sector, following the process outlined above. Please note that this figure is not definitive, and that there could be more construction and infrastructure sector businesses that applied for the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative that did not use easily identifiable terminology in their application.

Please see attached the Excel Spreadsheet which includes the following two tables:

- **Table One:** Number of employers who appear to be in the construction and infrastructure industry who have benefitted from the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative as at 31 March 2022, broken down by Territorial Local Authority (TLA)
- **Table Two:** Number of apprentices who appear to be in the construction and infrastructure sector who have benefitted from the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative as at 31 March 2022, broken down by paid and unpaid

The Ministry uses Territorial Local Authority (TLA) boundaries to organise data, rather than region. The TLA information released to you in **Table Two** is based upon the employer’s address and may not necessarily reflect where the apprentice is located.

Please be advised that due to the way the Ministry stores information relating to Apprenticeship Boost apprentices and employers, the process of collating the data to meet your request was significantly time-consuming. In order to provide this data, the Ministry needed to divert personnel from their core duties and allocate extra time to completing this task.

When processing future requests for breakdowns of Apprenticeship Boost data, the Ministry may consider refinement of the request, charging for the supply

of information, or extending the maximum time limit for making a decision on the request.

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

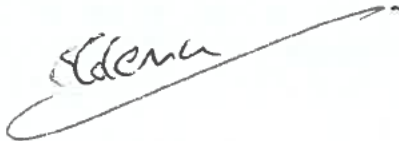
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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'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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding construction and infrastructure employers and apprentices who have benefitted from the Apprenticeship Boost 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 or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Coleman', written over a horizontal line.

Shaun Coleman
Director, Employment