



25 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 16 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *The number of applications received by Te Kāhui Kāhu for a core worker exemption from the date that the Children's Act 2014 was brought into effect up to and including 30th July 2023*
- *The number of core worker exemptions granted in the same time period.*

The Children's Act 2014 introduced a workforce restriction that means it is unlawful to employ a core children's worker who has been convicted of a specified offence, outlined in schedule 2 of the Act, unless they hold a core worker exemption.

An exemption can only be granted by the Chief Executive of a key agency listed in the Act. There are 5 key agencies:

- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Justice,
- Ministry of Social Development, and
- Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children.

An exemption can only be granted if the relevant Chief Executive is satisfied that a person would not pose an undue risk to the safety of children, if employed or engaged as a core worker¹.

More information about the core worker exemption process can be found on the following website: tekāhuikāhu.govt.nz/core-worker-exemptions.

¹ Section 35 of the Children's Act 2014 refers.

For the sake of clarity, the Ministry will respond to your requests in turn.

- *The number of applications received by Te Kāhui Kāhu for a core worker exemption from the date that the Children’s Act 2014 was brought into effect up to and including 30th July 2023*

Te Kāhui Kāhu has received 201 core worker exemption applications from 30 June 2014, when the Children’s Act 2014 was brought into effect, up to and including 30 July 2023.

- *The number of core worker exemptions granted in the same time period.*

There have been 102 core worker exemptions granted in the same period.

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 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 core worker exemptions, 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

Nicky Smith

Nicky Smith
**General Manager
Te Kāhui Kāhu**