



16 February 2024

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your email dated 15 January 2024 requesting information on the number of applications made for assistance to help with school fees and costs.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Please refer to Table One in the **Appendix** below, which includes the number of school related grants, declines and applications processed from 1 January 2024 to 31 January 2024 in response to your request.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix

Table One: Number of school related grants, declines and applications processed from 1 January 2024 to 31 January 2024.

School related cost type		Total
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION FEES, EXAMINATION FEES	Grants	198
	Declines	12
	Applications Processed (Grants + Declines)	207
SCHOOL STATIONERY	Grants	5,574
	Declines	261
	Applications Processed (Grants + Declines)	5,838
SCHOOL UNIFORMS	Grants	14,709
	Declines	459
	Applications Processed (Grants + Declines)	15,165
Total	Grants	20,478
	Declines	729
	Applications Processed (Grants + Declines)	21,210

Notes:

- This table includes grants for school administration and examination fees, school stationery and school uniforms.
- The number of grants, declines and applications processed is not the number of individuals.
- A client can have more than one grant, decline or application processed in each time period.
- This table includes Recoverable Assistance Payments and Advances, school related costs are not paid as Special Needs Grants.
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html>
- <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/extra-help/advance-payment-of-benefit/index.html>
- Adding up the number of grants and declines makes up the number of applications processed.

Confidentiality:

- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- Random rounding does not round down to zero, a value of one or two will be rounded to three.

- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.