



29 MAY 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

On 9 April 2018, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

1. *How many individuals took part in the 'Limited Service Volunteer' program from each year between 2005 to 2017*
2. *In relation to individuals and each year identified in (1), how many of these LSV participants continued to be registered with WINZ for 1, 3, 6, 12 month following completion of LSV?*
3. *Of the individuals identified in point 1, What was the rate of return to full time paid employment after 1, 3, 6, 12 months for those that completed the LSV course for each year between 2005 - 2017?*
4. *Of the LSV participants identified in (1), how many went to subsequent study at each year between the year 2005 to 2017?*
5. *How much has the Ministry of Social Development has spent on the Limited Service Volunteer Scheme for each financial year between 2005 to 2017?*

The Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) is a partnership programme between the Ministry, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) and the New Zealand Police. It is a six-week, voluntary training programme for 18 to 25-year-old jobseekers or those who are at risk of long-term unemployment. It aims to increase the number of young people entering employment by improving participants' self-discipline, self-confidence, motivation and initiative. For further information I refer you to the Ministry's website regarding the LSV programme: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/look-for-work/get-work-ready/limited-service-volunteer.html](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/look-for-work/get-work-ready/limited-service-volunteer.html).

Information about the LSV programme has changed over time since its inception in 1993; and the introduction and changes to Ministry IT systems. The Ministry is able to provide you with a report on LSV participants and outcomes from 2010 to 2015. Prior to 2010, information on the number of young people who took part in LSV was held on individual records, but not kept in a systemic or reportable form.

The Ministry is able to confirm that a full complement of 800 young people participated on LSV courses in the 2016/2017 financial years and that information is held on individual client files for administrative purposes. However, we do not yet have access to the 2016/2017 participant and outcome system information needed for reporting purposes. We are continuing to resolve this to enable reliable future reporting. As such, the Ministry is able to partially answer your request with data from 2010 to 2015. Information outside of this timeframe is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as to produce reliable, accurate data for these periods, Ministry staff would have to assess thousands of individual files.

Page 1 of 3

The Ministry reports on LSV outcomes by the percentage of participants who were off benefit sixteen weeks after commencement of the LSV course. As such I am unable to provide you with outcome data broken down by those who were in study, or by the time periods you have requested, as this information is held in notes on individual case files. In order to provide you with this information Ministry staff would have to manually review thousands of files. As such I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request for this information given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

The table below shows the number of young people who participated in the LSV programme, and the percentage of that number who were off benefit sixteen weeks after the commencement of the LSV course.

<b>Calendar Year</b>	<b>Number of clients who commenced LSV</b>	<b>Percentage of clients off benefit sixteen weeks after the commencement of LSV</b>
2010	1762	38.93%
2011	1400	47.64%
2012	1503	49.83%
2013	1408	48.37%
2014	1338	47.31%
2015	1227	47.03%

**Note:**

- **These figures include clients who commenced but did not complete the LSV**

The below table shows the contract value paid to the Ministry of Defence for delivery of the LSV programme. Please note, these values are recorded by contract period, which has not been consistent to calendar or fiscal years. As such, some of the periods listed are for six month periods, some are for twelve month periods.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Contract value</b>
2005/06 (financial year)	\$1,350,000
2006/07 (financial year)	\$1,394,444
2007/08 (financial year)	\$1,400,000
2008/09 (financial year)	\$1,400,000
2009/10 (financial year)	\$1,400,000
2010 (calendar year)	\$8,750,000
2011 (calendar year)	\$9,950,000
2012 (calendar year)	\$8,374,000
2013 (calendar year)	\$8,278,000
2014 (calendar year)	\$8,278,000
2015 (six months)	\$4,179,000
2015/16 (financial year)	\$4,755,483

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 regarding the number of youths who participated in the LSV programme, 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



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