



[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

On 20 January 2020, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *How many parents who have come to New Zealand under the parent category are now on a benefit (from perhaps the last decade or whatever time frame suits).*

The Ministry is unable to break down benefit receipt by clients who enter New Zealand under the Parent Resident Visa category (Parent Category). While the Ministry holds information on the type of Visa a client has (for instance Permanent Resident), it does not hold information on what application criteria the Visa was granted under.

The Ministry has contacted the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) in relation to your request. MBIE also do not hold information that would allow them to address your question.

As such, your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and there are no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The Ministry can advise that MBIE has previously done some work in this area. The 2013 report titled, '*Labour Market Outcomes of Recent Migrants to New Zealand*', by Paul Merwood is available online at: www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/2677-labour-market-outcomes-recent-migrants-nz-pdf. The section '*Capped Family Sponsored Stream – Parent Policy migrants*' begins on page 51 of the report and may be of interest to you. Please note the disclaimer in the report that the results are not official statistics, they have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) prototype managed by Statistics NZ.

In addition, information on the number of people who have been approved a Visa under the Parent Category is available on Immigration New Zealand's website at: www.immigration.govt.nz/documents/statistics/statistics-residents-decisions-financial-year.

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.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding the Parent Category Visa, 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.

Yours sincerely



Bridget Saunders

Team Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery