



02 FEB 2021

On 27 November 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme.

In June 2020, the Government announced the Apprenticeship Boost scheme to keep apprentices in jobs and support employers to invest in new ones. Employers can get Apprenticeship Boost if their apprentices are:

- actively training through a transitional Industry Training Organisation (ITO) or a provider
- training for a New Zealand Apprenticeship or Managed Apprenticeship recognised by the Tertiary Education Commission
- in their first 24 months of training (this includes any previous apprenticeship enrolment, including any other apprenticeships, with the same transitional ITO or provider).

Apprenticeship Boost is a cornerstone of the Government's Apprenticeship Support Programme. Employers of apprentices will also have targeted financial support available from the three other schemes listed below, depending on the circumstances:

- The Ministry Mana in Mahi scheme to help at-risk people into long-term sustainable work
- A new regional apprenticeship scheme which will invest in new apprenticeships in regional New Zealand, and particularly support displaced workers and Māori and Pacific peoples into jobs
- Seven existing Group Training Schemes that continue to employ some 1,700 apprentices and trainees and provide related services to host businesses.

This support is critical to ensuring that our people and businesses continue to develop the skills needed for New Zealand's economic recovery and rebuild following the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the sake of clarity, I will respond to your questions in turn,

- *How many businesses have applied for the boost?*

At 21 December 2020, 8,513 businesses have signed up to the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme.

- *How many of these applications related to automotive businesses?*

The Ministry does not record or collect information relating to the business type of Apprenticeship Boost scheme applicants. Therefore, this information 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, the Ministry has analysed the applications held and can advise that 37 of the 'apprenticeship types' held in the database appear to relate to roles within the automotive industry. This figure has been determined by terminology used in the applications where it is clear that the businesses relate to the automotive industry (e.g. applications containing terms such as 'Automotive General Service' or 'Light Vehicle Engineering').

The Ministry can also advise that 883 employers appear to have one or more apprentices with an apprenticeship type that could relate to the automotive industry.

Please note that the figures provided are not definitive, and that there could be more automotive businesses that applied for the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme that did not use easily identifiable terminology in their application.

- *How many automotive business applications have been approved?*

After an application is submitted, the Ministry will contact the Tertiary Education Commission to confirm that the apprentice is registered and eligible to receive funding. If the apprentice is enrolled in a valid course, the Ministry will provide a payment to the business each month which will then be passed on to the apprentice. Apprenticeship Boost is a 20-month programme for eligible first and second-year apprentices.

The Ministry can advise that at 21 December 2020, 1,348 persons listed with an automotive industry apprenticeship type have been paid at least once as part of the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme.

- *What were the main reasons for disapproval, if any?*

The main reason an application is declined, or payment ceases, is where the apprentice has completed 24 months (or more) training.

- *How many apprentices do the approved automotive business applications relate to?*

At 21 December 2020, the total number of apprentices that the automotive business applications relate to is 1,636. However, as advised above, only 1,348 of these apprentices have received one or more payments to date.

Further information on the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme can be found on the Work and Income and Ministry of Social Development websites at the following links:

- www.workandincome.govt.nz/work/apprentice-support/index.html.
- www.workandincome.govt.nz/employers/subsidies-training-and-other-help/apprenticeship-boost/index.html.
- www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/factsheets/apprentice-support/apprenticeship-boost-factsheet.pdf.

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. 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 QIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response relating to the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme, 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shaun Coleman', written over a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the left and then curves back under the signature.

Shaun Coleman
Director Employment