



Dear

On 28 July 2021, you emailed Office of Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment (the Minister) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Can the Minister's office inform Marja of the number of firms which took advantage of the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme and the number of apprentices taken on in Whangaparaoa and Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorates?*

On 11 August 2021, the Minister's Office transferred your request to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) to respond as the information requested is more closely connected with the functions of the Ministry.

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

- actively training through a transitional Industry Training Organization (ITO) or a provider;
- training for a New Zealand Apprenticeship or Managed Apprenticeship recognized by the Tertiary Education Commission; or
- 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 their circumstances:

- The Ministry's Mana in Mahi scheme, which helps at-risk people gain long-term sustainable employment;
- 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 around 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.

Further information on the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme can be found on the Work and Income and the Ministry's 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 Ministry only reports down to the Territorial Local Authority (TLA) level. The Whangaparaoa and Kaipara ki Mahurangi electorates are located in the Auckland Super TLA, as such, the Ministry has provided you with this information in the Auckland Super TLA.

Please see below Table One, which shows the number of firms being supported by the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme and the number of Apprentices in the Auckland Super TLA for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 June 2021

Table One: The number of firms being supported by the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme and the number of Apprentices in the Auckland Super TLA for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 June 2021

Apprentices	Employers
10,713	2,748

Notes:

- TLA is Territorial Local Authority.
- TLA is based on the post code of the firm and may not be the same as the TLA of the client's address.
- The Ministry's reporting for such data is only available as at the month's end, so a firm or apprentice must be current at the end of the month to be counted.
- This data may be subject to a small undercount if an apprentice was current for less than 4 weeks, however, please note that this is not likely to be a common scenario.
- To protect confidentiality, the Ministry uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data. The data has had random rounding to base three applied.
- The published counts will never differ by more than 2 counts.

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
- 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 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 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

P.P. 

Shaun Coleman
Director
Employment