



28 March 2022

Tēnā koe

On 13 January 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *For the calendar year 2020 and 2021 (or the greatest part of that for which data is available) can you please advise the total amount distributed under the Apprenticeship Boost Scheme?*
- *If possible, for each period, can you identify the amount paid towards apprentices employed in the automotive sector (e.g. automotive technicians, collision repairers, etc)?*

On 4 February 2022, the Ministry extended the timeframe of your request as the consultations necessary to make a decision on your request were such that a proper response could not be provided within the original time limit.

On 24 February 2022, the Ministry emailed you to note that we had decided to grant your request however more time was required to prepare the information for release. The Ministry advised that a response would be provided to you by 24 March 2022.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere apologies for the delay in responding to your request for information. Due to unforeseen circumstances, staff members integral to meeting your request have taken extended leave which has regrettably impacted the timeliness of our response.

I can inform you that the total gross amounts exclusive of GST paid under the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative scheme are as follows:

10/08/2020 – 31/12/2020	<b>\$48,837,500</b>
01/01/2021 – 31/12/2021	<b>\$239,116,500</b>

Regarding the second part of your request, the Ministry does not record or collect information relating to the business type of Apprenticeship Boost Initiative applicants. As such, your request 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.

The Ministry has however examined apprenticeship types in the database that appear related to roles in the automotive industry. This information is based upon 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'). As at 31 December 2021, **1,515** employers appear to have one or more apprentices with an apprenticeship type that could relate to the automotive industry, since August 2020.

Regarding the second portion of your request, I can inform you that, as at 31 December 2021, the total number of automotive industry apprentices approved for payment under the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative since August 2020 was **2,601**. Employers of these apprentices were paid a total of **\$18,975,000** exclusive of GST.

I am unable to break this figure down per calendar year as you have requested due to aforementioned staff absence. Please note that the figures provided to you are not definitive, as there could be more automotive businesses that applied for the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative that did not use easily identifiable terminology in their application.

The principles and purposes of the Act 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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding funds paid under the Apprenticeship Boost Initiative, 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Shaun Coleman  
**Director, Employment**