



14 December 2023

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2023, requesting information about Step 2s carried out in individualised claim assessments since 2018.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

I have also included some general information about Step 2 individualised assessments at the end of this letter, for your reference.

Please provide, under the OIA, a breakdown of how many Step 2 Analyses for historic claims were carried out since 2018 until today, divided into months (or quarters, if that is more manageable).

Please provide this data both in table form, and in a bar chart or similar visual format.

The Ministry does not centrally record the date a Step 2 is completed. To provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to manually review a substantial number of files. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the 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 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.

We have, however, provided you with data regarding assessments featuring a Step 2, based on the date the individualised claim assessment was approved by the Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) as an estimate of when the Step 2 was completed.

Please refer to the attached Appendix which contains a table showing the number of Step 2s that have been completed in each financial year from 2018/19 to 2023/24 (to 20 November 2023) by DCE approval date, broken down by quarter. As requested, we have also provided the data in a bar chart.

General information about Step 2 Individualised Assessments

When Historic Claims is completing an individualised claim assessment (previously called claims assessment), and the allegation is of a more serious nature a Step 2 is completed. This enables the Ministry to have a better understanding of the more serious abuse alleged by those who were in care and provides confidence in the robustness of the information shared with providers, including Oranga Tamariki. It also ensures payment recommendations are fair, consistent and align with past payments. For more information about when a Step 2 is completed and what is required, please refer to the Ministry's Historic Claims Business Process Guide, specifically, page 19 which is available at the following link: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/historic-claims/historic-claims-business-process-and-guidance.pdf

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request regarding Step 2 individualised assessments, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

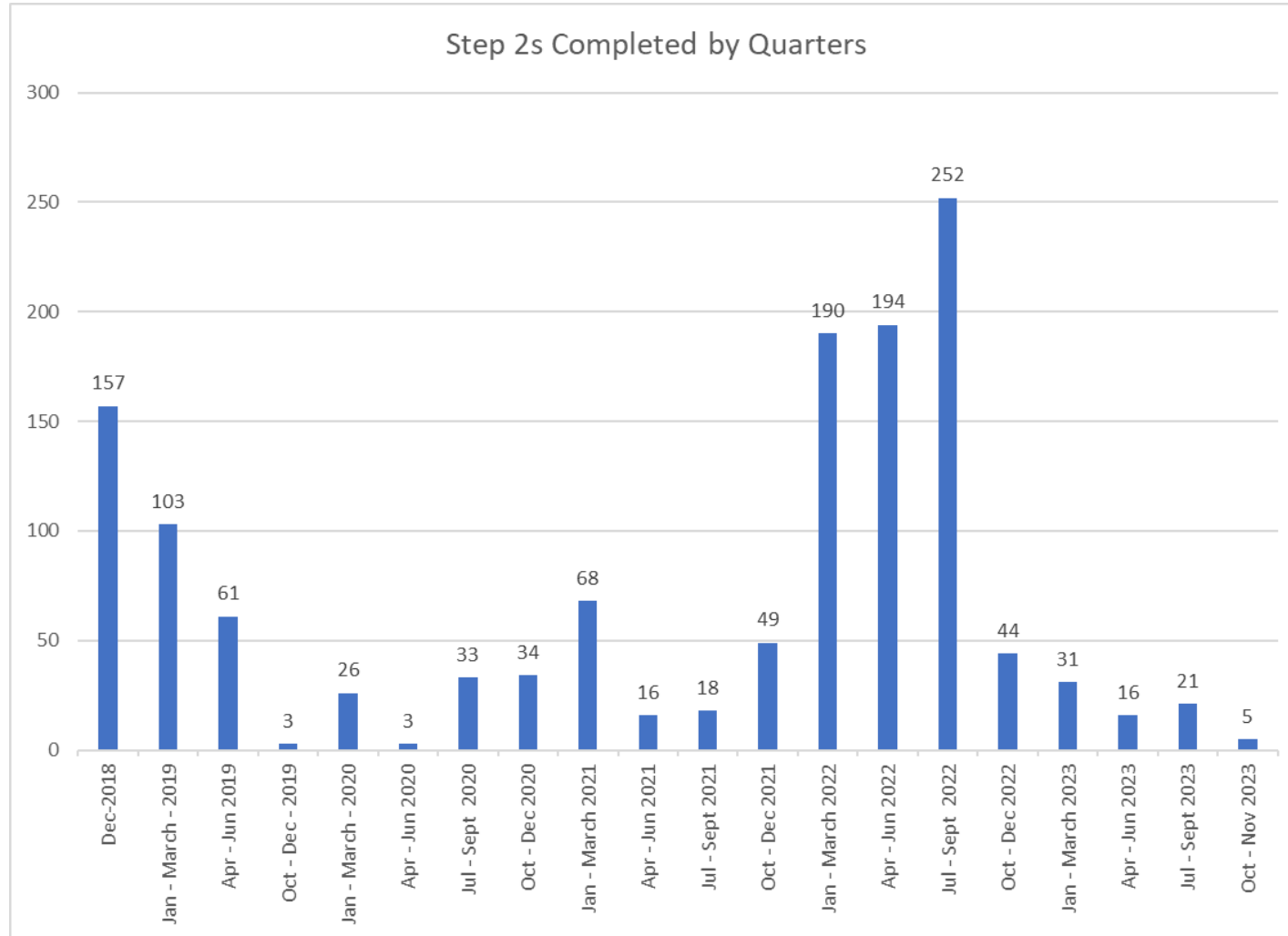


Magnus O'Neill
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix

The number of Step 2s that have been completed in each financial year from 2018/19 to 2023/24 (to 20 November 2023) by DCE approval date, broken down by quarter.

Quarter	Number of Step 2s Completed
Dec-2018	157
Jan - Mar - 2019	103
Apr - Jun 2019	61
Oct - Dec - 2019	3
Jan - Mar - 2020	26
Apr - Jun 2020	3
Jul - Sep 2020	33
Oct - Dec 2020	34
Jan - Mar 2021	68
Apr - Jun 2021	16
Jul - Sep 2021	18
Oct - Dec 2021	49
Jan - Mar 2022	190
Apr - Jun 2022	194
Jul - Sep 2022	252
Oct - Dec 2022	44
Jan - Mar 2023	31
Apr - Jun 2023	16
Jul - Sep 2023	21
Oct - Nov 2023	5





Notes:

- Not all individualised claim assessments will include a Step 2.
 - The date that the Step 2 was completed is not recorded by Historic Claims in a reportable way. The date the assessment was approved by the DCE has been used as an estimated timeframe for when the assessment was completed.
 - There may be some assessments where the step 2 was completed several months (or longer) before DCE approval of the assessment was obtained. This may have occurred where the assessment was partially completed and then put on hold whilst the frameworks to acknowledge inappropriate detention and/or potential Bill of Rights Act breaches were developed and implemented in 2022.
 - In late 2018 Historic Claims implemented a new assessment model and started completing Step 2s, previously all allegations were assessed under a different assessment model.
 - Data included in this request has been captured in the Historic Claims Application (implemented in November 2019). At the time of implementation, the Ministry migrated recent relevant operational data that was needed to support ongoing work. The data from some more historical claims was not fully migrated into the database. There is the possibility that information on some Step 2s, completed prior to 27 November 2019, may not have been included in the migration of data.
-