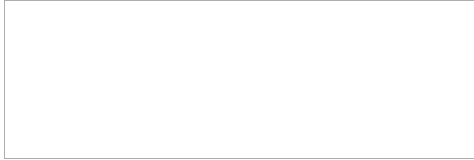




23 MAY 2016



Dear

On 22 April 2016 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding Student Allowance reviews of decision for the Waikato region for 2015 and 2016. This follows the Ministry's previous response to you which provided the number of reviews of decision nationally since 2011.

The Ministry is unable to provide the number of reviews of decision for students in the Waikato region. This is because data on reviews is not recorded by geographic region, but by the region of the Outreach site which serviced the area prior to StudyLink's realignment with Work and Income. The Hamilton Outreach region includes Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Taranaki. As such, your request for information is refused under section 18(e) of the Official Information Act as the information does not exist.

The enclosed table provides the number, type and outcome of all Student Allowance reviews of decision for students who were living in the Hamilton Outreach region in 2015, and in 2016 (up to 16 March 2016).

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 after ten working days. 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.

I hope you find this information regarding Student Allowance reviews of decision helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman  
Office of the Ombudsman  
PO Box 10-152  
Wellington 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth Bound', written in a cursive style.

Ruth Bound  
**Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery**

**The total number of Student Allowance reviews of decision for 2015 and 2016 for students who were living in the Hamilton Outreach region, broken down by review type and outcome.**

<b>Review type</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016 (to 16 March)</b>
<b>Administrative</b>	Overtured	2	1
	Upheld	14	0
	Withdrawn	7	3
<b>Total Administrative</b>		<b>23</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Statutory</b>	Overtured	15	5
	Upheld	7	1
	Partially upheld	1	
	Withdrawn	10	1
	Pending hearing		1
<b>Total Statutory</b>		<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Total reviews</b>		<b>56</b>	<b>12</b>

**Note:**

Review of decision data is updated daily to reflect the current status of each review. The majority of reviews which were in progress when the original data was drawn in March are likely to have been completed, so will be included above with a final outcome.

'Withdrawn' means the student has opted not to proceed with their review. Report Writers generally speak with students regularly during the review process, often discussing a student's specific circumstances and the application of policy. Sometimes students ask us not to proceed with their review once they understand why a decision was made in a particular way.