



12 DEC 2017

Dear

On 21 November 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the number of people who have applied for an Equivalent Full-time Student (EFTS) extension to their student loan, and the number of people who have been granted such an extension.

From 1 December 2015, eligible graduate entrants enrolled in long undergraduate programmes may apply for an additional 1 EFTS on top of the standard 7 EFTS. 7 EFTS equates to approximately 840 points or credits, or approximately 7 or 8 years of full-time study.

Since the introduction of this policy, the Ministry has received 395 applications for EFTS extensions. 113 applications were made in 2016, of which 98 were approved, and 282 were made in 2017, of which 241 were approved. No applications for extensions were received in December 2015.

The number of successful applications for EFTS extensions by year and programme:

Programme	2016	2017
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	41	62
Doctor of Philosophy	13	83
Master of Arts	S	9
Master of Science	7	7
Other Masters Programme	11	27
Other Bachelors Programme	S	8
Other	20	45
Total	98	241

Notes:

- "S" represents data suppressed in order to protect clients' privacy.
- Data is current as at 29 November 2017.
- "Other" includes all other programmes, and instances in which the extension was approved but no confirmed study was received and the client did not proceed with the loan application.

You have indicated that you are interested in information specific to graduate-entry applicants. The Ministry does not centrally record this data for previous years, however collation was recently carried out with regards to graduate entrants enrolled in long undergraduate programmes in 2017. I can therefore advise that as at 11 October 2017, 88 EFTS extension applications were received for these students during 2017. The number of successful applicants, and a breakdown of courses in which they were enrolled, is withheld as this includes low numbers which may identify individual applicants. I can, however, advise you that most of these applications related to the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery programme and were approved.

The data which is suppressed in this response is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act in order to protect the privacy of natural persons. The need to protect the privacy of these individuals outweighs any public interest in this information.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

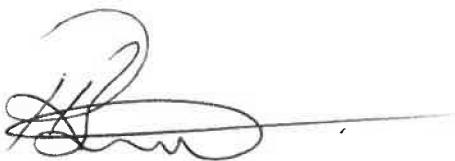
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

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 shortly. 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, 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



Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery