



12 MAY 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

On 23 March 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

*The number of Not Employment, Education or Training (NEET) present within the Taupō District.*

Statistics NZ defines youth NEET as people aged 15–24 years who are not in employment, education, or training. NEET includes both those people who are unemployed (part of the labour force); and those who are not in the labour force, and at the same time, not in education or training.

As advised in an email sent to you on 16 April 2020, the Ministry is able to report on the number of NEET young people enrolled in the Youth Service, which does not include any other young people not in employment, education, or training. Therefore, it is important to note that the Ministry's definition of NEET does not align with that of Statistics New Zealand. Broader statistics and information on NEET young people can be found on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment website.

The Youth Service supports 16 and 17 year old people who are not engaged in education, employment, or training and is a voluntary service. The Youth Service is focused on supporting the more vulnerable young people who are at higher risk of poor outcomes. More information about the Youth Service is available here: [www.youthservice.govt.nz/about-youth-service/your-future-your-choice.html](http://www.youthservice.govt.nz/about-youth-service/your-future-your-choice.html).

I can confirm that as at 31 March 2020, there were 14 young people enrolled in the Youth Service NEET programme in the Taupō area. This is a count of young people who are enrolled in the Ministry's Taupō and Tūrangi Service Centres.

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.

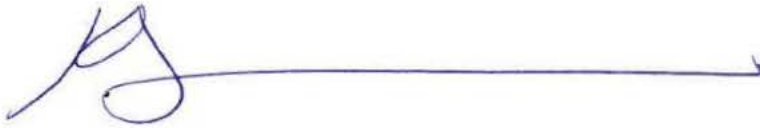
This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the

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 in regards to the number of NEETs present in the Taupō District, 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' and 'T' followed by a long horizontal line that ends in a small arrowhead.

*PP* Juanita Te Kani  
**General Manager, Youth**