



s 9(2)(a) OIA

Dear s 9(2)(a) OIA

Thank you for your email of 8 January 2019 to the Minister of Education requesting the following information:

- *For each of the following years:*
 - 2015/2016 Actuals
 - 2016/2017 Actuals
 - 2017/2018 Actuals
 - 2018-2019 Projections

The number of students that received an "Access Barriers Boarding Allowance" and the number that received a "Multiple Barriers Boarding Allowance."

The total expenditure (excluding GST) paid for Access Barriers Boarding Allowances and paid for Multiple Barriers Boarding Allowances.

Your request was transferred to the Ministry of Education on 30 January 2019 and has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I am releasing the number of students that received boarding allowances by school calendar year from 2015 to 2018 in Table 1 of the **Appendix**. s 9(2)(a) OIA

Please note, some students may switch from one type of allowance to another in a school year. In these cases they are counted once in each of the categories they have received payment under but only once in the total number. This means the total number of students receiving the allowance is not the sum of the number of students receiving Multiple Barriers and Access Barriers allowances.

I am releasing the total expenditure of these allowances by financial year for the three financial years that occurred between 2015 and 2018 in Table 2 of the **Appendix**. We do not code allowance payments by type of allowance so we are unable to break down the spending by type.

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I am refusing your request for a projection of 2019 student numbers and a projection for the expenditure of the 2018 to 2019 financial years under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist. Boarding Allowances is a demand driven service where numbers will fluctuate. As such we do not project student numbers or the corresponding expenditure projections. We do, however, currently have an annual budget for allowances of \$11.3 million.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Appendix

Table 1. Number of Students that received Boarding Allowances.

School Year	Multiple Barriers Students	Access Barrier Students	Total*
2015	609	553	1161
2016	786	653	1435
2017	905	797	1695
2018	1018	875	1867

**Note some students may switch from one type of allowance to another in a school year. In these cases they are counted once in each of the categories they have received payment under but only once in the total number. This means the total number of students receiving the allowance is not the sum of the number of students receiving Multiple Barriers and Access Barriers allowances.*

Table 2. Expenditure for all Boarding Allowances.

Financial Year	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Actual	\$ 8,094,000.00	\$ 8,799,000.00	\$ 9,209,000.00	\$ 9,152,000.00