



2 August 2023

Tēnā koe

On 7 July 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information relating to the Out of School Care and Recreation (OSCAR) grant funding.

The Ministry will respond to each part of your request in turn below.

- *The projected date for the opening of applications for the OSCAR subsidy.*

There is currently no projected date for the opening of applications for the OSCAR grant funding. As such your request for this information is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

- *The number of OSCAR funding applications received annually since 2019 to date.*

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order 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.

- *The number of these applications that were approved or declined for funding.*

Regarding the number of applications that were approved, please see the **Table** below for further information on the number of OSCAR providers that received OSCAR Grant Funding broken down by financial year from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023.

Regarding the number of applications that were declined, I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order 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.

**Table: The number of OSCAR providers that received OSCAR Grant Funding broken down by financial year from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023**

<b>Financial Year ending 30 June</b>	<b>Provider Count</b>
2019	580
2020	565
2021	577
2022	565
2023	531

**Notes:**

- This is a count of OSCAR providers who received OSCAR Grant Funding
  - An OSCAR Provider may receive funding for multiple programmes and venues
  - OSCAR Grant Funding may not have been paid for the full financial year
  - Financial years are from 1 July to 30 June
- *A comprehensive list of general reasons for declining grants, along with a count of applications declined for each reason.*

Regarding a list of general reasons for declining grants, the only declining grounds for OSCAR grant funding are if you do not meet the requirements listed on the webpage. However, due to the unavailability of funds, only providers that currently have contracts can apply. Please see the following link to OSCAR grant funding requirements: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/providers/childcare-assistance/oscar-grants.html>

Regarding the count of applications declined for each reason, I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order 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.

- *The number of applications that did not receive funding due to the unavailability of funds.*

I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in notes on individual case files. In order 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.

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 and attachments on the Ministry'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 regarding OSCAR funding applications, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

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