



20 June 2023

Tēnā koe

On 22 May 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *For all the students who were awarded a New Zealand Scholarship in the last 10 years, how many took up the monetary payment within the 5 year period?*

New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) Scholarship Monetary Award recipients are transferred to the Ministry each year from NZQA. Students can only receive these payments when they are enrolled in tertiary study. If they are not enrolled in tertiary study, or do not wish to receive the award initially, they can elect to postpone the receipt of the award.

Students who wish to postpone the initial receipt of their award, will still be transferred to the Ministry by NZQA. For example, a student who completed Scholarship exams in 2022 and achieved an award, would be entitled to receive their first payment in 2023. If they notify NZQA that they wish to postpone the initial receipt of the award, this information will come through to the Ministry around January 2023. Once the file is received by the Ministry, any further postponements are managed by StudyLink, not NZQA.

Please see the table below which shows the number of monetary payments from NZ Scholarships taken up within five years, out of the NZ Scholarships awarded in the last ten years.

Table One: The number of recipients who took up the monetary payment for NZ Scholarship within a five year period from the 18,825 scholarships awarded in the last ten years.

Paid within 5 years	Total
No	1,806
Yes	17,019

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'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 regarding New Zealand Scholarships, 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.

Ngā mihi nui



George Van Ooyen
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Client Service Support