



3 June 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your online request submitted on 14 April 2026, requesting the number of employed StudyLink clients and their average hours worked per work, in the years 2020 to 2026.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below.

- *Provide data regarding the employment status of learners who have received and/or are currently receiving Studylink payments for each consecutive year from 2020 to 2026.*
- *Specifically, how many learners receiving Studylink were/are employed while undertaking university study (as disclosed by these individuals), in 2020 to 2026 (inclusive)?*

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which provides the number of employed StudyLink clients, for study starting between 1 January 2020 and 30 April 2026.

- *Relatedly, what were/are the average hours (per week) worked by those receiving Studylink, for each of the years from 2020 to 2026?*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as substantial manual collation would be required to collate this information. If held, this information would only be contained within individual client files, which would each require manual review to respond to your request. 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.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request, 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

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Graham', written over a horizontal line.

Anna Graham

General Manager

Ministerial and Executive Services