



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 13 November 2017 requesting the following information:

- *The number of students who have been declined Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS) funding between 2012-2017.*

*Can I have this information broken down, by calendar year, please.  
Can I also have the information broken down into regions.*

- *Can I also have the information of the number of applications that were granted, also broken down by calendar year and region, please.*
- *Also, if there are any common reasons as to why requests have been turned down, that would be much appreciated.*
- *Can I also have how much money the Ministry of Education invested or put into ORS funding, each calendar year, between 2012-2017, please. And if possible, can this be broken down by region.*
- *Any other information in regards to this request would be much appreciated, too.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Learning support funding is organised into roughly three tiers that reflect the varying needs of children and young people, and of early learning services and schools in supporting them.

The supports include:

- *Universal or school-wide supports*

Schools receive a range of universal learning supports designed to develop their inclusive practice capability and ability to provide positive learning environments. For most children and young people, their needs are fully met within their early learning service or classroom through responsive and flexible teaching, and a positive environment. Examples include the Special Education Grant that all schools receive, and the Positive Behaviour for Learning School-Wide initiative.

- *Targeted supports*

For a proportion of children and young people, or groups of children and young people, targeted learning support is needed to enable them to be present, to participate, learn and

achieve. For example, the provision of braille reading materials for blind students and ESOL funding.

- *Intensive, individualised learning support*

For a small proportion of students, their disability, disadvantage, behaviour or progress needs are complex and require intensive, individualised or specialist interventions and supports. Examples include the Intensive Wraparound Service (IWS), ORS, and Residential and Day Special Schools.

Children and young people who receive ORS support will often have extreme or severe difficulty with learning, speaking, hearing seeing, communicating socially and/or movement.

The sorts of specialist assistance provided could include a speech-language therapist, an occupational therapist, a physiotherapist, a psychologist, an advisor on deaf children or a special education advisor. ORS also provides additional teacher time, teacher aide support, and a small consumables grant. ORS funding is in addition to teacher funding and operational grants paid to schools.

My response to your particular questions is set out below.

### ***Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS) applications declined between 2012 and 2017***

Students are eligible for ORS funding when they meet one of nine criteria.

Applications for ORS funding are declined when a student does not meet the ORS criteria. Further details about the ORS scheme, and the criteria for eligibility, can be found in the *Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS) Guidelines*. A copy of the Guidelines is attached for your information.

I can advise that 3057 applications for ORS funding were declined between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2017. Please note that this figure reflects the total number of unsuccessful applications as opposed to individual students. Multiple applications for individual students may be received in a year.

The number of unsuccessful applications, broken down by financial year (1 July to 30 June), is set out in the table below. I am refusing your request for a break down by calendar year under section 18(g) of the Act as we do not hold this data by calendar year.

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Unsuccessful ORS Applications</b>
<b>2011-2012</b>	474
<b>2012-2013</b>	462
<b>2013-2014</b>	397
<b>2014-2015</b>	539
<b>2015-2016</b>	574
<b>2016-2017</b>	500
<b>2017-2018*</b>	111
<b>Total</b>	<b>3057</b>

*\*As at 30 September 2017. Second quarter data for the 2017/18 Financial Year has yet to be verified and finalised.*

These applications were received from the following districts:

District	2015-2016	2014-2015	2013-2014	2012-2013	2011-2012
AC	44	64	45	41	37
BE	30	21	15	15	43
BW	24	20	19	18	9
CE	42	28	18	29	29
CY	64	60	40	43	38
GS	12	7	19	5	7
GW	50	59	39	40	45
HB	14	18	16	25	23
MN	61	46	47	64	59
NMW	23	22	22	16	17
NW	91	51	38	57	67
OT	22	29	14	13	20
SD	12	11	8	12	6
TK	8	9	8	5	9
TT	36	31	17	23	18
WK	41	63	32	56	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>574</b>	<b>539</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>474</b>

Key:

District	
AC	Auckland City
BE	Bay of Plenty East
BW	Bay of Plenty West
CE	Central
CY	Canterbury
GS	Gisborne
GW	Greater Wellington
HB	Hawkes Bay
MN	Manukau
NMW	Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast
NW	Auckland (North West)
OT	Otago
SD	Southland
TK	Taranaki
TT	Tai Tokerau
WK	Waikato

In the 2016-2017 financial year, we started collecting the information by region as below.



Region	2017-2018	2016-2017
AK	31	164
BPW	10	49
CY	12	47
HBG	5	26
NMW	5	13
OS	6	38
TT	7	27
TWM	10	38
WK	16	55
WN	9	43
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>500</b>

Key:

Region	
AK	Amalgamation of Auckland City, Manakau and Auckland (North West)
BPW	Amalgamation of Bay of Plenty East and Bay of Plenty West
CY	No change
HBG	Amalgamation of Hawkes Bay and Gisborne
NMW	No change
OTS	Amalgamation of Otago and Southland
TT	No change
TWM	Amalgamation of Taranaki and Central
WK	No change
WN	Formerly Greater Wellington

***Number of ORS applications granted between 30 September 2011 and 30 September 2017***

I can advise that 6221 applications for ORS funding were granted between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2017.

The number of ORS applications granted between the 2011/12 and 2017/18 financial years (to 30 September 2017) is set out in the table below. As above, I am refusing your request for a break down by calendar year under section 18(g) of the Act as we do not hold this data by calendar year.

Financial Year	Successful ORS Applications
2011-2012	920
2012-2013	936
2013-2014	1153

<b>2014-2015</b>	1005
<b>2015-2016</b>	1037
<b>2016-2017</b>	929
<b>2017-2018*</b>	241
<b>Total</b>	<b>6221</b>

*\* As at 30 September 2017. Second quarter data for the 2017/18 Financial Year has yet to be verified and finalised.*

These applications were received from the following districts/regions:

<b>District</b>	<b>2015-2016</b>	<b>2014-2015</b>	<b>2013-2014</b>	<b>2012-2013</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>
<b>AC</b>	89	85	112	105	100
<b>BE</b>	53	61	56	64	40
<b>BW</b>	34	27	43	23	23
<b>CE</b>	65	68	70	66	48
<b>CY</b>	109	106	120	92	93
<b>GS</b>	20	12	25	11	19
<b>GW</b>	100	109	133	100	101
<b>HB</b>	34	37	30	35	34
<b>MN</b>	140	138	159	93	119
<b>NMW</b>	37	29	42	43	29
<b>NW</b>	119	109	119	106	112
<b>OT</b>	32	20	46	33	33
<b>SD</b>	18	24	26	23	24
<b>TK</b>	30	22	26	14	33
<b>TT</b>	48	49	51	41	37
<b>WK</b>	109	109	95	87	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>1037</b>	<b>1005</b>	<b>1153</b>	<b>936</b>	<b>920</b>

<b>Region</b>	<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b>AK</b>	76	273
<b>BPW</b>	20	82
<b>CY</b>	24	87
<b>HBG</b>	13	52
<b>NMW</b>	5	31
<b>OS</b>	18	59
<b>TT</b>	15	50
<b>TWM</b>	19	91
<b>WK</b>	22	96
<b>WN</b>	29	108
<b>Total</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>929</b>

#### ***Allocation of ORS Funding 2012-2017***

The table below sets out the amount of ORS funding allocated by the Ministry between 1 July 2011 and 30 September 2017:

<b>Financial Year</b>	<b>Funding Allocated (\$000)</b>
<b>2011/12</b>	161,013
<b>2012/13</b>	164,890
<b>2013/14</b>	173,508
<b>2014/15</b>	182,216
<b>2015/16</b>	182,881
<b>2016/17*</b>	196,159

*\* As at 30 September 2017. Second quarter data for the 2017/18 Financial Year has yet to be verified and finalised.*

As above, the Ministry does not collate ORS funding information by calendar year. I am therefore refusing your request for a break down by calendar year under section 18(g) of the Act.

Similarly, I am unable to provide you with a regional break down of this information. This is because ORS funding attaches to individual students rather than particular schools or regions. I am therefore required to also refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the particular information you have requested is not held by the Ministry.

Thank you again for your email. If you have any further queries please contact the Ministry's media team ([media.team@education.govt.nz](mailto:media.team@education.govt.nz)) in the first instance. You also have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review our decision on your information request. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Susan Howan  
**Acting Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**