



Thank you for your email of 8th July 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *The number of children supported by learning support services for the 2018/19 year ended 30 June 2019, including type of service.*
2. *Average wait times for learning support services by region and by service type as at 30 June 2019.*
3. *The number of children on learning support waiting lists at 30 June 2019 by region and service type and by the number of days they have been waiting: 0-60 days, 61-90 days, 91-150 days, 151-300 days, and 301+ days.*

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

Please find the information you have requested in the three tables attached to this letter.

The last five years has seen increases in demand for learning support services. This has impacted waiting lists and waiting times.

On 26 June, Associate Education Minister Tracey Martin announced funding of \$24.8m as part of Budget 2019 over four years for the Early Intervention Service. This latest funding is in addition to the extra \$21.5 million over 4 years for Early Intervention Services provided as part of Budget 2018. The new funding will be used to recruit additional specialists to work with children across all regions in the country and provide additional Education Support Workers.

Budget 2019 has also provided \$25.1m over four years to respond flexibly to growth in demand for learning support as it occurs in each region. In 2019/20 the Behaviour Service and Communication Service will be prioritised.

Other changes that are underway with the Learning Support Action Plan, include the roll-out of the Learning Support Delivery Model and trialling changes in practice to bring services to the child. This will also improve the provision of learning support for young children.

**1. The number of children supported by learning support services for the 2018/19 year ended 30 June 2019, including type of service.**

The table below shows the number of children who have received learning support services in 2018/19, by service type.

Service type	2018/19 (as at 30 June 2019)
Behaviour Service	4,714
Communication Service	7,540
Early Intervention Service	15,109
Ongoing Resourcing Scheme	5,830
Other Services*	3,283
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,476</b>

\*Other services includes Deaf and Hard of Hearing Moderate Needs, High Health, Physical Disability Service

**2. Average wait times for learning support services by region and by service type as at 30 June 2019.**

The table below shows average number of days from the time a request for support is received to the time a learning support service begins, by region and service type as at 30 June 2019.

Region	Behaviour Service	Communication Service	Early Intervention Service	Ongoing Resourcing Scheme	Other Services*	Region Average All Services
Tai Tokerau	59.56	71.11	61.16	17.92	17.89	<b>58.48</b>
Auckland	55.34	55.50	101.02	14.24	38.90	<b>77.30</b>
Waikato	65.15	101.80	100.88	15.00	40.36	<b>86.02</b>
Bay of Plenty / Waairiki	38.73	85.27	123.04	18.38	27.90	<b>88.91</b>
Hawkes Bay / Tairāwhiti	38.43	80.40	97.79	40.25	19.70	<b>74.16</b>
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatu	45.12	98.80	130.18	50.87	27.03	<b>99.74</b>
Wellington	75.55	118.70	170.70	16.72	15.84	<b>126.00</b>
Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	24.12	37.33	55.53	22.35	27.29	<b>40.00</b>
Canterbury / Chatham Islands	37.01	54.05	88.41	26.70	49.36	<b>68.47</b>
Otago / Southland	28.99	54.87	83.60	21.12	23.65	<b>58.43</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>49.12</b>	<b>73.15</b>	<b>105.39</b>	<b>22.07</b>	<b>32.31</b>	<b>80.38</b>

**3. The number of children on learning support waiting lists at 30 June 2019 by region and service type and by the number of days they have been waiting: 0-60 days, 61-90 days, 91-150 days, 151-300 days, and 301+ days.**

The table below shows the number of children waiting for service from the time the request for support is received, to the time the data is run, by service type and region by time waiting bands, as at 30 June 2019.

<b>Behaviour Service</b>	<b>0-60 Days</b>	<b>61-90 Days</b>	<b>91-150 Days</b>	<b>151-300 Days</b>	<b>301+ Days</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tai Tokerau	19	2	4			<b>25</b>
Auckland	111	30	27			<b>168</b>
Waikato	19	11	6			<b>36</b>
Bay of Plenty / Wairariki	20	9	5	3	1	<b>38</b>
Hawkes Bay / Tairarwhiti	21	6	4	1		<b>32</b>
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatu	19	6	12	7	9	<b>53</b>
Wellington	10	3	2			<b>15</b>
Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	6	1	3			<b>10</b>
Canterbury / Chatham Islands	32	6	2			<b>40</b>
Otago / Southland	26		3	1		<b>30</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>447</b>

<b>Early Intervention Service</b>	<b>0-60 Days</b>	<b>61-90 Days</b>	<b>91-150 Days</b>	<b>151-300 Days</b>	<b>301+ Days</b>	<b>Total</b>
Tai Tokerau	26	4	3			<b>33</b>
Auckland	469	185	223	11	1	<b>889</b>
Waikato	71	35	51	12		<b>169</b>
Bay of Plenty / Wairariki	87	41	77	89	21	<b>315</b>
Hawkes Bay / Tairarwhiti	65	12	39	18	2	<b>136</b>
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatu	121	58	81	66	32	<b>358</b>
Wellington	129	52	98	60		<b>339</b>
Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	5	7	13	3	1	<b>29</b>
Canterbury / Chatham Islands	164	58	74	4		<b>300</b>
Otago / Southland	80	26	34	6		<b>146</b>
<b>National</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>693</b>	<b>269</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>2714</b>



Communication Service	0-60 Days	61-90 Days	91-150 Days	151-300 Days	301+ Days	Total
Tai Tokerau	7					7
Auckland	137	40	67	3		247
Waikato	32	12	36	12		92
Bay of Plenty / Waiariki	63	14	27	17	7	128
Hawkes Bay / Tairāwhiti	22	9	5	9	4	49
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatu	50	29	21	31	10	141
Wellington	31	14	14	9		68
Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	3	4	5	2		14
Canterbury / Chatham Islands	59	14	12			85
Otago / Southland	24	17	9	1		51
<b>National</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>882</b>

Ongoing Resourcing Scheme	0-60 Days	61-90 Days	91-150 Days	151-300 Days	301+ Days	Total
Tai Tokerau	1					1
Auckland	13	4	2			19
Waikato	4	2	2	1		9
Bay of Plenty / Waiariki						
Hawkes Bay / Tairāwhiti	6			1		7
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatu	4	1	1			6
Wellington	1					1
Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	1					1
Canterbury / Chatham Islands	5	1				6
Otago / Southland	2					2
<b>National</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>

Other Services	0-60 Days	61-90 Days	91-150 Days	151-300 Days	301+ Days	Total
Tai Tokerau	5	1				6
Auckland	26	6	12			44
Waikato	6	2	3	1		12
Bay of Plenty / Waiariki	1	1	1	2		5
Hawkes Bay / Tairāwhiti	7			1		8
Taranaki / Whanganui / Manawatu	7	1	1	1		10
Wellington	8	1	2			11
Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	4	1	2			7
Canterbury / Chatham Islands	20	5	7			32
Otago/Southland	6	1				7
<b>National</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>142</b>

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

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

Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**