

13 MAR 2017



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2017, to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *I request the decile rating of the last school attended for all students who were in their first year at university and ITP, by institution, for the years 2012-2016.*

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

Please find attached as **Appendix One** the data you have requested for calendar years 2012-2015. The data for the 2016 calendar year is not yet available. For this reason, I am refusing a portion of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

As well as providing you with the university and Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics enrolment data you requested, we have provided enrolment data for Wānanga and private training establishments to provide a complete picture of the tertiary education sector. I have also provided you with a table of school enrolments by decile to provide context. Although patterns of enrolment differ between types of tertiary education providers, generally, a larger proportion of first-year tertiary students come from higher decile schools. I would like to note that high decile secondary schools have a larger proportion of the Year 12 or higher students.

When you compare the distribution of first-year domestic tertiary students in 2015 with the distribution of senior secondary school students in 2014 (see Table 1), the figures show that students in their first year undertake tertiary study in approximately the same proportions as they are represented in their later years at school.

*Table 1: Distribution of 2015 first-year domestic tertiary students by decile and 2014 Year 12 or higher secondary school students by decile*

Decile	First-year tertiary 2015	School 2014
1	4%	4%
2	6%	5%
3	7%	6%
4	8%	8%
5	7%	10%
6	12%	11%
7	9%	10%
8	10%	13%
9	10%	12%
10	12%	15%
Unknown	15%	3%
Total	100%	100%

I would like to advise you that the '*first year in tertiary*' field is self-reported at the time of enrolment. For this reason, similar to any self-reported field, there may be issues with quality and consistency of data. Also, the data that is in the 'unknown decile' category is likely to be where a school was not able to be linked to the student.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to ask an Ombudsman to review this response. 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



Claire Douglas  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Graduate Achievement, Vocations and Careers**