



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 18 May 2017, to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Statistics on the number of students receiving post-secondary ORS funding, and;*
2. *Statistics on the number of students entering the school system with identified intellectual disabilities (time date).*

On 22 May 2017, we transferred **Part 1** of your request to the Ministry of Social Development under section 14(b)(ii) of the Act, as this information is more closely connected with its functions. They will respond to you directly.

In response to **Part 2** of your request, the Ministry of Education does not classify students by disability. We are unable to tell you the number of students with identified intellectual disabilities. For this reason, I am refusing **Part 2** of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

While we do not hold the data you have requested, we do have information on students funded through the Ongoing Resourcing Scheme (ORS). I have provided this to you as you may find it useful.

As you may be aware, through ORS we provide funding for specialist support to students with the highest level of need. This support is provided for the duration of their schooling. Students funded through ORS may have a range of intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities which can include trouble with language use or social communication.

The table below captures the number of students in or entering schooling, who have been verified for funding through ORS. As you have not specified a time-period in your original request, we have collated data from the last two years. The age of students ranges from 4 years 6 months to 6 years 3 months, to capture those students who might have started school at age 6.

Year	Number of Students who joined the ORS
2015	674
2016	684

A copy of the ORS Guidelines, which explains the eligibility criterion in detail, is attached to this response. Please note, there will also be students in the school system who have started school and who have been diagnosed with an intellectual disability but do not reach the ORS threshold.

Further information about ORS can be found on our website at: <https://education.govt.nz/school/student-support/special-education/ors/>. I have also attached a power point that provides general ORS information that you may find interesting.

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 the printed name.

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