



10 September 2020



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

*"Can you please tell me how many children 0-18yrs within the education system are considered to have a moderate/severe/profound hearing loss? (Anything below the speech banana).*

*How many of those are under the care and consultation of Deaf Education support?  
How many of those on record are learning NZSL (NZ sign language)"*

On 5 August 2020, you clarified that "by care and consultation I mean education, TOD, equipment, NZSL support, communication assistance and advice from Deaf education centres. Anything outside of mainstream that supports their enablement related to their hearing loss."

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

My response to your request is provided in the order of your request.

***Can you please tell me how many children 0-18yrs within the education system are considered to have a moderate/severe/profound hearing loss? (Anything below the speech banana).***

The Ministry does not hold data on the exact number of children and young people 0-18 years who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing with a moderate/severe/profound hearing loss within the education system. It is therefore necessary for me to 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.

We do, however, hold data on services provided to children and young people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing from Ministry of Education, Learning Support and other providers funded by the Ministry. This information is provided in my response to part two of your request below.

***How many of those are under the care and consultation of Deaf Education support?  
By care and consultation I mean education, TOD, equipment, NZSL support, communication assistance and advice from Deaf education centres. Anything outside of mainstream that supports their enablement related to their hearing loss.***

Learning support is the additional support some children and young people need to engage and achieve in education.

Learning support is available for children and young people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, from birth to end of school. Included in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing cohort are children and young people with unilateral and bilateral permanent hearing loss, and children identified with auditory neuropathy spectrum disorder.

The data provided below is for children and young people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and supported in one or more of the following ways:

- by Ministry of Education (MOE) Learning Support practitioners including Advisers on Deaf Children, and/or
- supported by providers funded by the Ministry of Education.

Please note that children and young people can be counted more than once in the following data as they may be receiving support from more than one provider or receiving multiple types of support. The following data is for the calendar year 2019 and from milestone reports received from contract providers in 2020:

1. Birth to five years of age, support from MOE Advisers on Deaf Children for children NOT identified through the Universal Newborn Hearing Screening programme (UNHSP) – **280**
2. Birth to five years of age, support from MOE Advisers on Deaf Children for children identified through the UNHSP – **722**
3. Year 1 to Year 3 at school, support from MOE Learning Support Advisers on Deaf Children to students with moderate learning needs related to hearing loss – **860**
4. Year 4 to Year 13+, support provided by the Deaf Education Centres (now Ko Taku Reo – Deaf Education NZ) ASSIST Programme to students with moderate learning needs related to hearing loss – **1814**
5. Year 1 to Year 13+, support provided by the Deaf Education Centres (now Ko Taku Reo – Deaf Education NZ) Regional Resource Teacher of the Deaf (RTD) service to students with significant learning needs related to hearing loss - **752**
6. Year 1 to Year 13+, support provided to children and young people enrolled in the Deaf Education Centres (now Ko Taku Reo – Deaf Education NZ) - **116**
7. NZSL@School provision - support to children and young people whose primary language is NZSL, support provided by the Deaf Education Centres (now Ko Taku Reo – Deaf Education NZ) – **109** (note the majority of these children and young people will be included in data point 5 above)
8. Cochlear Implant Programmes – habilitation support provided to children and young people with cochlear implants, support provided through the Southern Cochlear Implant Programme and Northern Cochlear Implant Programme – **482** (note the majority of these children and young people will be included in the data points 1 to 7 above)
9. First Signs, Deaf Aotearoa – support provided re NZSL or families with children birth to 5 years of age - **184** (note the majority of these children will be included in the data points 1, 2 and 8 above).

***How many of those on record are learning NZSL (NZ sign language)?***

The Ministry records the number of children who are learning NZSL as their primary or secondary language and who may be accessing the curriculum through NZSL as:

1. Year 1 to Year 13+ - support provided to children and young people enrolled in the Deaf Education Centres (now Ko Taku Reo – Deaf Education NZ) - **116**
2. NZSL@School provision - support to children and young whose primary language is NZSL, support provided by the Deaf Education Centres (now Ko Taku Reo – Deaf Education NZ) – **109**
3. First Signs, Deaf Aotearoa – support provided re NZSL for families with children birth to 5 years of age - **184**

Please also note that support related to NZSL for families, whānau, children and young people, early learning services and schools is also provided by Advisers on Deaf Children and Resource Teachers of the Deaf.

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



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