

27 January 2020

Dear 

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 15 December 2019, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

1. *how many students got derived grades for ncea external exams in 2017? What is that percentage compared to students who sat exams?*
2. *how many students got their derived grades for ncea external exams in 2018? What is that percentage compared to students who sat exams?*
3. *in each year from 2017 to 2018 can you please breakdown the numbers into the broad reasons people got derived grades? E.g sports trips, mental health illnesses, common cold and flu, reproductive illnesses?*
4. *in each year from 2017 to 2018 how many got derived grades for illnesses related to female reproductive issues e.g. endometriosis?*
5. *in each year from 2017 to 2018 how many got derived grades for mental health illness e.g depression and anxiety?*

The response to your first two *questions* is as follows:

In 2017 2,463 students received derived grades. This represents 1.7% of all students who participated in NCEA external assessments in 2017.

In 2018, 2,299 students received derived grades. This represents 1.6% of all students who participated in NCEA external assessments in 2018.

A derived grade is applied for a candidate who may have been unable to attend an examination or submit a portfolio for external assessment, who attended an examination with significantly impaired performance, or who has been selected for National Representation. In cases where the student has an approved derived grade and another grade (having completed the external assessment) the higher of the two grades is used. The figures provided above only count derived grades where they were used as the final grade.

Derived grades are distinct from 'Unexpected Event Grades' which are available where multiple students' attendance or completion of an external assessment is impacted. Unexpected Event Grades are not counted in the figures provided above.

NZQA is unable to respond to your last three questions seeking information about the reasons why students are awarded derived grades. While NZQA does hold this information for each student for whom an approved derived grade is used, it is not held in a format that enables collation for statistical purposes. This part of the request is therefore refused under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982.

As part of the commitment to open and transparent government, NZQA is proactively releasing responses to Official Information Act requests which are of public interest. NZQA intends to publish response to your request on its website in March 2020. Your name and contact details will be removed before publication.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact [REDACTED] in the Office of the Chief Executive, email [REDACTED]@nzqa.govt.nz or telephone (04) 463 [REDACTED]

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have the right, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act 1982, to lodge a complaint with the Office of the Ombudsman at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz). You can also telephone 0800 802 502 or write to the Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington, 6143.

Yours sincerely



Karen Poutasi (Dr)  
Chief Executive