

25 September 2018

redacted s9(2)(a)

Dear redacted s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 30 August 2018, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

I would like the following information for domestic students each year for the last five years. I would also like it broken down into NCEA level 1, 2, 3 and scholarship. Could it also please include figures on how many students sat each of these levels for an accurate comparison.

- 1. The total amount of money NZQA has received as a result of NCEA fees each year.*
- 2. The total amount of money outstanding at the end of each year from unpaid NCEA fees.*
- 3. The number of students who have had financial assistance for their NCEA fees, and the total cost of the financial assistance.*
- 4. The number of students who paid a late fee as a result of not paying their NCEA fees on time, and the total amount of money collected from late fees.*
- 5. The number of students who did not pay their NCEA fees – and then broken down into how many passed and how many failed. Can you please confirm that students who did not pay the fee but did pass has their qualification withheld.*

I would also like to request any reviews or evaluations that have been conducted of NCEA fees in the last 3 years.

I would also like to request any correspondence NZQA has had with any Ministers offices regarding NCEA fees over the last year.

I have attached a spreadsheet with information covering your request. In answering your questions, domestic students in year levels 11, 12 and 13 have been used as a proxy for NCEA levels 1, 2 and 3 as students can study across multiple NCEA levels and New Zealand Scholarship in a single year. All figures provided are GST exclusive.

The NCEA fee is \$76.70 per year and covers both internal and external assessment. NZQA has not increased the NCEA fee (excluding the GST increase from 12.5% to 15% in 2010) since 2005.

The entry fee contributes to the overall costs of delivering NCEA. Costs include monitoring of schools' assessment systems, moderation of internally assessed results, setting examinations; printing and sorting examination documents, holding examinations and marking, and processing of results.

While the credits achieved by a student with unpaid fees are not formally recognised on their Record of Achievement, students are able to log into NZQA's website and see the results for all the standards they were assessed against. Tertiary organisations and employers can also access student results with the permission of the student.

NZQA has no documents within scope regarding your request about reviews and evaluations that have been conducted by NZQA in the last three years concerning NCEA fees.

We have two documents which are in scope of your final request. One is some background information about NCEA fees sent to the Minister's private secretary. A second document within scope has been withheld under section 9 (2)(f)(iv) in order to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.

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 will be publishing its response to your request on its website on December 2018. 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 s9(2)(a) in the Office of the Chief Executive, email redacted s9(2)(a)@nzqa.govt.nz or telephone (04)redacted s9(2)(a).

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 Ombudsmen, PO Box 10152, Wellington.

Yours sincerely



Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive

Encl

Background info: I would like information for domestic students each year for the last five years.
 I would also like it broken down into NCEA level 1, 2, 3 and Scholarship.
 Could it also please include how many students sat each of these levels for an accurate comparison.

Academic Year	Student Year Level	Level 1 students	Level 2 students	Level 3 students	NZ Schol students
2013	11	55,698	20,537	4,287	63
2013	12	19,078	49,462	18,527	1,245
2013	13	8,511	18,933	40,854	9,403
2014	11	54,611	21,167	4,190	55
2014	12	17,793	50,304	18,130	1,328
2014	13	7,292	17,637	40,697	8,910
2015	11	56,125	21,805	5,104	55
2015	12	16,433	49,921	19,362	1,260
2015	13	6,924	16,946	42,156	8,157
2016	11	56,440	22,426	5,280	80
2016	12	17,637	51,601	20,322	1,327
2016	13	7,278	15,818	41,586	7,833
2017	11	55,253	23,247	5,357	97
2017	12	16,269	51,773	20,492	1,581
2017	13	6,835	14,946	42,658	7,861

Notes:

1. NCEA levels 1, 2 or 3 has been defined as domestic students year levels 11, 12 and 13 as students can study multiple NCEA levels in a single year.
2. Domestic students exclude foreign students and adult students.

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Part 1: The total amount of money NZQA has received as a result of NCEA fees each year.

Academic year	NCEA fees
2013	9,506,340.79
2014	9,860,589.10
2015	10,603,675.79
2016	10,745,780.18
2017	11,004,525.59

Note that our finance system does not capture the revenue transactions by NCEA level.

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Part 2: The total amount of money outstanding at the end of each year from unpaid NCEA fees.

Academic year	Unpaid NCEA fees
2013	980,523.53
2014	948,051.69
2015	1,041,412.08
2016	1,184,087.00
2017	1,431,587.20

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Part 3: The number of students who have had financial assistance for their NCEA fees, and the total cost of the financial assistance.

Academic Year	Student Year Level	Financial Assistance Student Count
2013	11	10,674
2013	12	9,624
2013	13	7,981
2014	11	10,335
2014	12	9,102
2014	13	7,614
2015	11	9,946
2015	12	8,862
2015	13	7,442
2016	11	9,597
2016	12	8,489
2016	13	7,150
2017	11	8,799
2017	12	8,007
2017	13	6,675

All eligible applications received by NZQA for financial assistance are approved.

NZQA receives \$1.288m (GST excl.) from Vote Education annually to provide financial assistance with the NCEA and NZ Scholarship entry fees for eligible New Zealand candidates.

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Part 4: The number of students who paid a late fee as a result of not paying their NCEA fees on time, and the total amount of money collected from late fees.

Academic year	Student year level	No. of students	Late fees collected
2013	11	372	76,611.27
2013	12	392	
2013	13	333	
2014	11	437	87,924.71
2014	12	429	
2014	13	295	
2015	11	505	79,666.68
2015	12	457	
2015	13	355	
2016	11	595	85,478.68
2016	12	569	
2016	13	408	
2017	11	690	87,939.10
2017	12	559	
2017	13	480	

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Part 5: The number of students who did not pay their NCEA fees - and then broken down into how many passed and how many failed.

Academic Year	Student Year Level	Total Student Count	Unpaid Student Count	Unpaid students with withheld quals	% of unpaid students with withheld quals
2013	11	55,830	2,466	409	17%
2013	12	50,454	2,633	721	27%
2013	13	43,106	3,060	791	26%
2014	11	54,725	2,430	517	21%
2014	12	51,362	2,649	857	32%
2014	13	42,704	2,820	645	23%
2015	11	56,227	2,760	700	25%
2015	12	50,914	2,815	1,094	39%
2015	13	44,111	3,157	854	27%
2016	11	56,540	3,498	1,035	30%
2016	12	52,540	3,200	1,414	44%
2016	13	43,408	3,290	991	30%
2017	11	55,355	4,252	1,483	35%
2017	12	52,749	4,145	2,232	54%
2017	13	44,436	3,868	1,358	35%

We have interpreted your terminology of "passed and failed" as follows:

A "Passed" student is one that has achieved a qualification but because they have unpaid fees, their qualification has been withheld.

A "Failed" student is one that has not achieved a qualification and therefore there is no qualification to withhold, even though they have unpaid fees

For example, in the above table, 409 (or 17%) of 2013 year 11 "passed" students with unpaid fees have had a qualification withheld.

As a percentage of the total 2013 Year 11 cohort (55,830), this equates to 0.7% that would be in the "passed" category.

While the credits achieved by a student with unpaid fees are not formally recognised on their Record of Achievement, students are able to log into NZQA's website and see the results for all the standards they were assessed against.

Tertiary organisations and employers can also access student results with the permission of the student.

Notes:

1. "Not paid" student numbers in past years do decrease over time as students make late payments.
2. Yearly totals should not be summed across years to get an overall total. Counts include students who may not have had results released onto their record of achievement due to unpaid fees across multiple years.

Withheld under section 9(2)(a)



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

QUALIFY FOR THE FUTURE WORLD
KIA NOHO TAKATŪ KI TŌ ĀMUA AOI

6 June 2018

@parliament.govt.nz

Dear [redacted]

NCEA Fees

Thank you for your request of 1 June 2018 for advice on the NCEA fee. I have provided some background information in the bullet points below:

- The NCEA fees collected by NZQA contribute towards the approximately \$40 million annual cost of delivering NCEA. The annual cost includes moderation of internally assessed results, setting examinations, printing and sorting examination documents, holding examinations, and marking.
- An annual fee structure for senior secondary school assessment has been in place for many years. Fees were applied for School Certificate, Sixth Form Certificate, and Bursary examinations, prior to the introduction of NCEA from 2002.
- NZQA has not increased the NCEA fee (excluding the GST increase from 12.5% to 15% in 2010) since 2005.
- All students should have the opportunity to achieve their full potential and NCEA fees shouldn't be a barrier to this, which is why the financial assistance policy is in place. NZQA and schools encourage those who are eligible for financial assistance to apply for this. Schools actively promote this within their parent community.
- All those who are eligible, and who apply, for financial assistance receive it. This reduces the fee from \$76.70 to \$20 for an individual student, and \$30 for a family. In 2017, we received and approved over 25,000 financial assistance applications.

If you require further information, please contact [redacted] in the Office of the Chief Executive, email [redacted] @nzqa.govt.nz or telephone (04) 463 [redacted]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen', is written over a white rectangular area.

Karen Poutasi (Dr)
Chief Executive

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