

5 October 2022

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request of 7 September 2022, under the Official Information Act 1982, for the following information:

*I am requesting the release of figures relating to the provision of digital NCEA examinations at schools.*

*Please provide a breakdown of the following:*

- *How many schools are offering digital NCEA examinations in 2022*
- *How many more intend to offer this form of examination in 2023*
- *What subjects are currently offered, and whether any additional subjects will be offered in 2023*
- *How many schools, if any, have confirmed they won't be offering digital examinations in 2023*
- *Any reasons schools have provided for not wanting to offer digital examinations, and/or any obstacles, challenges or barriers either schools or the ministry have highlighted in offering digital examinations*

*For the above, please also breakdown these numbers by decile rating (in regards to the 2023 figures, please do this using the current decile rating and the incoming Equity Index by band); and by region.*

*In cases where the Ministry of Education, or affiliated agencies, have provided digital devices to schools and any associated infrastructure, to enable digital examinations to be held, please break these costs down as well as provide an overall cost in dollars relating to the past two years.*

### Response

In response to the bullet pointed questions outlined in your Official Information Act request, NZQA can answer the following questions:

#### Question 1

In 2022, there are 404 schools, including kura, with student entries for digital examinations.

The attached spreadsheet PRS-4658 *Provision of NCEA Digital Exams* shows the number of entries by decile and region. The spreadsheet:

- provides the total number with entries
- differentiates between those with entries into the pilots for the draft achievement standards and Literacy and Numeracy | Te Reo Matatini me Te Pāngarau digital external

assessments (Pilot) and those entered for current subject digital external examinations (End of Year).

### Question 2

NZQA does not hold information regarding the number of schools offering digital NCEA examinations in 2023. NZQA does not gather student entry information from providers until the year of assessment, i.e entries for 2023 digital examinations won't occur until next year.

### Question 3

The 2022 external examination timetable can be found on the NZQA website at: <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/qualifications-and-standards/qualifications/ncea/exams-and-portfolios/2022-Exam-Timetable.pdf>. Note the subjects offered digitally are highlighted in blue.

The following subjects will be added in 2023: Final decisions about which will be digital are yet to be made.

#### Level 1

- New Zealand Sign Language
- Tokelauan
- Niuean

#### Level 2

- Hangarau
- Hauora
- Ngā Mahi a te Rēhia
- Pāngarau
- Pūtaiao
- Te Reo Rangatira
- Tikanga ā-Iwi
- Toi Ataata
- Toi Pūoro
- Tauanga

#### Scholarship

- Te Ao Haka

### Question 4

Refer to the response provided in question two.

### Question 5

We have interpreted your request to refer to the 2022 academic year.

Information gathered from schools suggests there are a number of challenges experienced by schools in relation to digital exams spanning teacher confidence in digital assessment, infrastructure, device challenges, and management of facilities during digital exams.

Although NZQA cannot directly address all concerns, initiatives to build teacher confidence and schools support in 2022 include:

- Providing familiarisation online activities for students / ākonga to help navigate and effectively use the functionality in Assessment Master
- Providing induction to assessment delivery tools NZQA uses for NCEA Review pilots and Digital Practice Exams for Principals' Nominees and teachers
- Providing weekly assessment induction delivery refresher drop-in sessions from the end of May 2022 to support pilot kura and schools to prepare for intra-year assessments for NCEA Pilots
- Developing online video instructions in English and Te Reo Māori, e-learning modules, written guides and job aides to support Principals' Nominees and teachers using NZQA systems

- Offering Digital Practice Exams on NZQA's assessment platform to provide a low risk (to students) and high value (opportunity to gather data to support derived grades) proposition to teachers and students
- Working with the Ministry of Education's Te Mana Tuhono project to identify senior secondary schools for equipment upgrades
- Communications through the Operations & Logistics Assessment Service Centre (for pilots), School Relationship Managers and NCEA Online for Digital Practice Exams
- Implementing a support model for the NCEA Review pilots that ensures that queries from kura and schools are responded to efficiently, and effective support is provided to kura and schools if called on the day of the assessment (intra-year and end of year).

For further information on the Evaluation of NCEA Online refer to:

<https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/about-us/future-state/digital-assessment-ncea-online/ncea-online-evaluation/>

As previously noted, NZQA does not hold information regarding the 2023 academic year. The spreadsheet provided with decile rating and region refers to the 2022 academic year.

In response to your request "*In cases where the Ministry of Education, or affiliated agencies, have provided digital devices to schools and any associated infrastructure, to enable digital examinations to be held, please break these costs down as well as provide an overall cost in dollars relating to the past two years*" NZQA does not hold this information. We have been advised the MoE will respond to this part of your request.

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 its response to this request on its website as part of its next quarterly release of documents. Your name and contact details will be removed before publication.

If you require further assistance or believe we have misinterpreted your request, please contact Elizabeth Templeton in the Office of the Chief Executive, email [elizabeth.templeton@nzqa.govt.nz](mailto:elizabeth.templeton@nzqa.govt.nz) or telephone (04) 463 3339.

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.

Nāku nā



Dr Grant Klinkum  
Pouwhakahaere/Chief Executive

Region	Assessment Group	Number of Providers
Total	Total	404
Auckland	Total	88
Bay of Plenty	Total	25
Christchurch/Canterbury	Total	49
Dunedin/Otago	Total	21
Gisborne/East Coast	Total	9
Hamilton/Waikato	Total	46
Hawkes Bay	Total	20
Invercargill/Southland	Total	11
Nelson/Marlborough	Total	15
New Plymouth/Taranaki	Total	14
Northland	Total	25
Oamaru/North Otago	Total	3
Palmerston North/Manawatu	Total	17
Queenstown/Central Otago	Total	2
Timaru/South Canterbury	Total	4
Wairarapa	Total	7
Wanganui	Total	7
Wellington/Kapiti	Total	35
West Coast	Total	6
Total	End of Year	354
Auckland	End of Year	75
Bay of Plenty	End of Year	19
Christchurch/Canterbury	End of Year	44
Dunedin/Otago	End of Year	20
Gisborne/East Coast	End of Year	7
Hamilton/Waikato	End of Year	39
Hawkes Bay	End of Year	18
Invercargill/Southland	End of Year	10
Nelson/Marlborough	End of Year	15
New Plymouth/Taranaki	End of Year	14
Northland	End of Year	20
Oamaru/North Otago	End of Year	3
Palmerston North/Manawatu	End of Year	15
Queenstown/Central Otago	End of Year	2
Timaru/South Canterbury	End of Year	3
Wairarapa	End of Year	7
Wanganui	End of Year	7
Wellington/Kapiti	End of Year	31
West Coast	End of Year	5
Total	Pilot	246
Auckland	Pilot	53
Bay of Plenty	Pilot	19
Christchurch/Canterbury	Pilot	27
Dunedin/Otago	Pilot	14
Gisborne/East Coast	Pilot	7
Hamilton/Waikato	Pilot	28
Hawkes Bay	Pilot	11
Invercargill/Southland	Pilot	5
Nelson/Marlborough	Pilot	9
New Plymouth/Taranaki	Pilot	9
Northland	Pilot	12
Oamaru/North Otago	Pilot	3
Palmerston North/Manawatu	Pilot	10
Queenstown/Central Otago	Pilot	2
Timaru/South Canterbury	Pilot	2
Wairarapa	Pilot	4
Wanganui	Pilot	5
Wellington/Kapiti	Pilot	24
West Coast	Pilot	2

Decile	Assessment Group	Number of Providers
Total	Total	404
Decile 1	Total	43
Decile 2	Total	38
Decile 3	Total	43
Decile 4	Total	44
Decile 5	Total	32
Decile 6	Total	46
Decile 7	Total	43
Decile 8	Total	37
Decile 9	Total	41
Decile 10	Total	33
Not Applicable	Total	4
Total	End of Year	354
Decile 1	End of Year	32
Decile 2	End of Year	24
Decile 3	End of Year	39
Decile 4	End of Year	40
Decile 5	End of Year	28
Decile 6	End of Year	43
Decile 7	End of Year	41
Decile 8	End of Year	33
Decile 9	End of Year	39
Decile 10	End of Year	33
Not Applicable	End of Year	2
Total	Pilot	246
Decile 1	Pilot	24
Decile 2	Pilot	25
Decile 3	Pilot	30
Decile 4	Pilot	23
Decile 5	Pilot	16
Decile 6	Pilot	28
Decile 7	Pilot	26
Decile 8	Pilot	28
Decile 9	Pilot	27
Decile 10	Pilot	16
Not Applicable	Pilot	3