

05 JUN 2020

Zane Collins
fyi-request-12475-1c0f156a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Collins

Official Information Act 1982 request

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) of 19 March 2020 to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) regarding litigants in the Family Court. Your request and my response are set out below:

1. *the total number of legally aided litigants in the Family Court also;*
2. *the non-legally aided litigants from the year 2010 to 2019.*

In response to part 1, I must advise that this information is publicly available on the Ministry's website. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the OIA. You may access the information on justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/4ng4su-Legal-Aid-grants-dec2019-v1.0.xlsx

In response to part 2, I must advise that I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) as the information is not held by the Ministry, and there is no reason to believe that it is held by another agency subject to the OIA.

The data that you requested is in the Court's Case Management System (CMS) and Legal Services Management System (LSMS). CMS and LSMS has many tables of data relating to various justice processes and requires careful joining of information at a detailed level to get a sensible output. This requires specialist knowledge and skill.

Although the Ministry holds the raw data from which answers to your request can be derived, the OIA does not require a department to create information or to put it in another form. Furthermore, where specialist skill is required to put information in another form, this is considered as a creation of information.

If you require any further information, please contact Jerram Watts, Team Leader Media and External Relations (acting), on 027 291 3518, or email media@justice.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to complain to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. You can contact the Office of the Ombudsman by writing to PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143; calling 0800 802 602; or emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

I trust the information assists.

Yours sincerely



Jacquelyn Shannon
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Ref: 81206