



03 SEP 2020

Ryan Potts

[fyi-request-13261-b3d18a60@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13261-b3d18a60@requests.fyi.org.nz)

[fyi-request-13464-a324f3e3@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13464-a324f3e3@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Ryan Potts

On 5 August 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) twice requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Request One.

- 1. The criteria for determining if someone is 'trainable' for the occupation "Dairy Cattle Farm Worker" or similar?*
- 2. The number of New Zealanders who were identified as available for training or employment as Dairy Cattle Farm Workers since 31 March 2020, with a breakdown by region?*
- 3. The total number of applications received via the Work and Income Online Recruitment Tool for Dairy Cattle Farm Worker vacancies since 31 March 2020 with an explanation for those considered unsuitable?*

Request Two.

- 4. The number of New Zealanders identified as suitable and/or trainable for the occupation "Fruit Picker" since 31 March 2020, broken down by region.*
- 5. The criteria used to determine if someone is suitable and/or trainable in this context.*
- 6. The number of applications received via the Work & Income Online Job Recruitment Tool for Fruit Picker vacancies in the same period, broken down by outcome.*

In regard to questions one and five of your request, a clients' suitability or trainability for a role is primarily determined through conversations with potential candidates during the job matching process. The Ministry does not hold written criteria to determine whether a person is suitable for a role before they are referred. A person's individual skills, experience and work history are taken into account on a case by case basis.

In response to questions two and four of your request, please find **Table One** overleaf which shows the number of clients referred to a Dairy Cattle Farm Worker role and Fruit Grower role using occupation groupings, broken down by region for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 July 2020. These clients would have been identified as suitable for the respective roles in order to be eligible for the referral.

Please note that the data for 'Fruit Grower' is a broader category that includes related job titles such as thinners, pruners and packers, but note that there were no referrals to specific 'Fruit Picker' roles in the requested period.

**Table One: The number of clients referred to a Dairy Cattle Farm Worker role and Fruit Grower role, using occupation groupings, broken down by region for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 July 2020.**

<b>Opportunity Region</b>	<b>Dairy Farm Worker</b>	<b>Fruit Grower</b>
Auckland	1	47
Bay of Plenty	6	80
Canterbury	7	14
Central	8	37
East Coast	16	152
Nelson	6	98
Northland	2	60
Southern	72	13
Taranaki	39	40
Waikato	24	20

With regard to questions three and six of your request, I am unable to provide you with this information as it is held in records of individual clients' Recruit Me profiles. The job titles are free text in the Work and Income Online Recruitment Tool platform, as opposed to a set list of job titles to select.

In order to provide you with this information, Ministry staff would have to check every job title in the Work and Income Online Recruitment Tool platform and make personal judgements whether to include them or not. As such, I refuse your request under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act. The greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether the Ministry would be able to respond to your request given extra time, or the ability to charge for the information requested. I have concluded that, in either case, the Ministry's ability to undertake its work would still be prejudiced.

You may also be interested to read about the 2020 GoDairy Campaign that was launched in June by DairyNZ in partnership with the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry for Primary Industries. The campaign is designed to help COVID-19 affected workers into a farming career. You can read more about this here: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-supports-dairy-farming-jobs-kiwis](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-supports-dairy-farming-jobs-kiwis)

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Dairy Farm Worker and Fruit Grower roles, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



**Bridget Saunders**  
**Manager**  
**Issue Resolution, Service Delivery**