

20 December 2017

Paul Verdon  
[Fyi-request-6898-c5576c7e@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:Fyi-request-6898-c5576c7e@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Verdon

I refer to your email of 27 November 2017 to Hon Andrew Little, Minister for Courts, requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), information regarding the Waitangi Tribunal (the Tribunal). Your request was transferred to the Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) for reply as the agency responsible for providing administrative support to the Tribunal.

You have requested:

*The total of applications handled by the Waitangi Tribunal since it began and the totals of successful and unsuccessful applications that make up that total.*

To provide you with context for the information you request, the Tribunal makes recommendations on claims brought by Māori relating to Crown actions or omissions which breach the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Accordingly, where you refer to 'applications', I have interpreted this as claims.

Once a claim is submitted, if it meets the criteria for registration, it will be issued a Wai number (short for Waitangi Tribunal claim) before being considered by the Tribunal.

Since the Tribunal was established in 1975, 2,689 Wai numbers have been issued.

As the Tribunal is a commission of inquiry, claims are not defined as successful or unsuccessful. This part of your request is refused in accordance with section 18(g) of the OIA as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and we do not have grounds to believe it is held by another department, Minister of the Crown, organisation or local authority.

If you are not satisfied with my response to your request you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the OIA. The Ombudsman may be contacted by writing to the Office of Ombudsman at PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143, by phone on 0800 802 602 or by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz).

I trust this information will be useful to you.

Yours sincerely



Grace Smit  
**Director, Waitangi Tribunal**

Ref: 65408