



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

Bowen State Building, Bowen Street, Wellington 6011, PO Box 1556, Wellington 6140 • Telephone: 0-4-916 3300 • Facsimile: 0-4-918 0099

18 OCT 2013

Mr Alex Hedley

fyi-request-1122-a4758a40@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Hedley

Thank you for your email of 13 September 2013 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information about EFTS, Student Loan repayments and defaulters.

As advised on 20 September 2013, your questions relating to the number of students who have repaid their Student Loans and the number of Student Loan defaulters, have been transferred to the Ministry of Education under section 14(b)(i) of the Act as the Ministry of Social Development does not hold this information.

Therefore, the Ministry will respond to the following question:

- *How many current medical students who are currently on the student loan scheme would run out of EFTS before completion of their study if they will use student loans each year for the remainder of their study?*

EFTS (Equivalent Full-Time Student) is a measure of the amount of study or workload involved in undertaking a tertiary course. The Tertiary Education Commission confirms the EFTS value of each course as part of approving access to government funding.

There is a lifetime limit of seven EFTS for Student Loans. The life-time limit includes all study that started on or after 1 January 2010 for which a Student Loan was drawn down. For full-time students, seven EFTS equates to about seven or eight years of study. Part-time students use less EFTS each year. The EFTS limit may be extended in certain situations.

StudyLink records the EFTS students use while in receipt of student support, as this information is required to assess entitlement. StudyLink does not hold information about how much EFTS students will require to complete their qualification. While there may be an expectation that a certain number of EFTS will be required for specific programmes, this can vary for each individual due to a number of factors; for example, cross-crediting of earlier papers may reduce the amount of study and EFTS, failing or repeating papers will increase the amount of study and EFTS. Therefore, this information is refused under section 18(g) of the Act as the information is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds for believing the information is held by another department or organisation.

Page 1 of 2

I am sorry I am not able to help you more on this occasion. You have the right to seek an investigation and review of my response by the Ombudsman, whose address for contact purposes is:

The Ombudsman
Office of the Ombudsman
PO Box 10-152
WELLINGTON 6143

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gloria Campbell', written in a cursive style.

Gloria Campbell
Deputy Chief Executive Students, Seniors and Integrity Services (Acting)