



25 August 2021

Bella Farland  
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Tēnā koe Bella

Thank you for your email of 9 July 2021 to the Ministry of Education, requesting the following information:

*"I would like to request information on the number of Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Enrolment at a Registered School that were received by the Ministry, as well as the decisions that were made on them.*

*Can you please provide the following information?*

*For each quarter for the previous five years (i.e. Q3 2016 through Q2 2021), how many Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Enrolment at a Registered School were received? And in each of those quarters, how many Applications for Certificates of Exemption from Enrolment at a Registered School were approved, and how many were declined?"*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

In New Zealand, all children aged between 6 and 16 years of age are required to enrol in and attend a registered school. Home education is where parents or legal guardians take responsibility for the education of their children, instead of enrolling them in school.

If a parent or legal guardian, wish to educate their child at home, they must first get approval from their local Ministry of Education office. If approval to home educate is granted, the parent or legal guardian will receive a Certificate of Exemption from Enrolment at a Registered School. This indicates the applicant is legally responsible for providing, supervising and monitoring the child's learning programme. If an application to home educate is for more than one child, a separate Certificate of Exemption is required for each child.

You can find more information about home education on the Ministry's website here:

[Home education – Parents.education.govt.nz – Practical information about education for parents and carers](https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-carers/)

I am providing you with the requested information to you as per the following tables.

**Number of Early Leaving Exemption applications received by year and quarter received from Q3 2016 to Q2 2021**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Applications Received</b>
<b>2016</b>	3	290
<b>2016</b>	4	327
<b>2017</b>	1	443
<b>2017</b>	2	353
<b>2017</b>	3	370
<b>2017</b>	4	332
<b>2018</b>	1	428
<b>2018</b>	2	362
<b>2018</b>	3	331
<b>2018</b>	4	435
<b>2019</b>	1	443
<b>2019</b>	2	344
<b>2019</b>	3	378
<b>2019</b>	4	399
<b>2020</b>	1	494
<b>2020</b>	2	734
<b>2020</b>	3	619
<b>2020</b>	4	449
<b>2021</b>	1	553
<b>2021</b>	2	466

**Number of Early Leaving Exemption applications actioned – with breakdown by status Approved and Declined by year and quarter actioned from Q3 2016 to Q2 2021**

Year	Quarter	Applications Approved	Applications Declined
2016	3	262	6
2016	4	196	6
2017	1	441	8
2017	2	298	15
2017	3	312	20
2017	4	244	23
2018	1	467	12
2018	2	317	20
2018	3	277	7
2018	4	276	18
2019	1	576	22
2019	2	308	16
2019	3	323	25
2019	4	266	17
2020	1	595	14
2020	2	509	11
2020	3	704	24
2020	4	373	20
2021	1	638	29
2021	2	437	17

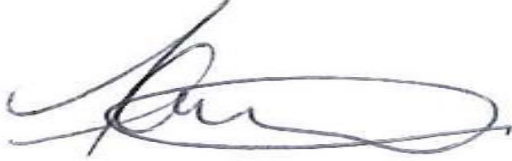
Please note the following caveats that apply to this information:

- Data has been extracted on 18th August 2021 which is live and subject to change.
- The Ministry has limited data on the historical actioning of applications. The “Approved/Declined” data has the following caveats:
  - “Approved” applications includes applications that are currently active and currently ceased
  - “Declined” applications include applications that are currently declined
  - If an application is active or ceased, the year and quarter are based on when home education started
  - If an application is declined, the year and quarter are based on when the application was declined
- The breakdown of applications cannot be summed together to obtain the “Received” application number. This is because some applications are not actioned in the same quarter they were received. Also, applications can have other statuses beyond approved/declined.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Hurst', written in a cursive style.

Helen Hurst  
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai | Te Hāpai ō Rāngai  
Deputy Secretary  
Sector Enablement and Support