



- 4 FEB 2016

Alex Harris

fyi-request-3487-b1c733ad@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Alex Harris

On 16 December 2015 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information, for the period 1 August 2014 to 31 July 2015:

- *The number of beneficiaries referred to jobs which require drug testing*
- *The number of beneficiaries who failed or refused a drug test*
- *The number of beneficiaries who, after failing or refusing a drug test, were required to repay the cost of their drug test (as noted on factsheet JOBS105 - JUL13)*
- *The number of beneficiaries who, after failing or refusing a drug test, subsequently failed or refused a second drug test.*

As stated in the Ministry's response to your request dated 31 July 2014, an employer or training provider may ask for beneficiaries to be drug tested as part of the application process for a suitable job. Approximately 40 per cent of the jobs listed with Work and Income require the applicants to pass a drug test.

In most cases a drug test is deemed a recruitment cost for the employer, not prospective employees. The drug testing policy for beneficiaries with work obligations allows the employer to be reimbursed for the test if a person fails, as long as the employer has informed Work and Income at the time of lodging the vacancy that the job requires a pre-employment drug test.

Beneficiaries with diagnosed drug dependency will not be sanctioned under this policy, but they will receive the support they need to deal with their addiction.

The Ministry's standard reporting for this information is by financial year, and as such, the information you have requested is provided for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Each of your questions has been addressed in turn.

- *The number of beneficiaries referred to jobs which require drug testing*
- *The number of beneficiaries who failed or refused a drug test*
- *The number of beneficiaries who, after failing or refusing a drug test, subsequently failed or refused a second drug test.*

There have been a total of 29,049 referrals to drug-testable jobs in the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Please note one beneficiary may have more than one referral in the same period. In the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, there were 159 drug

test failures or failures to meet drug test obligations. No beneficiaries failed or refused a second drug test in the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015.

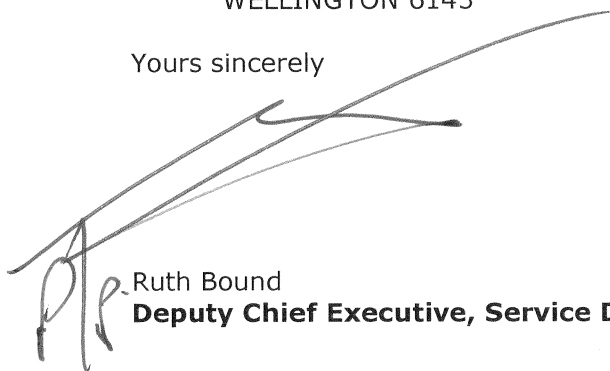
- *The number of beneficiaries who, after failing or refusing a drug test, were required to repay the cost of their drug test (as noted on factsheet JOBS105 - JUL13)*

As at the end of June 2015, six beneficiaries were required to repay a debt with Work and Income for failing a drug test.

I hope you find this information helpful. 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 'Ruth Bound', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Ruth Bound
Deputy Chief Executive, Service Delivery