



22 August 2023

Ref: DOIA 2324-0179

Privacy of natural persons

Tēnā koe Privacy of natural persons

Thank you for your email of 27 July 2023 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

*I would like to know the annual number of settlements made in NZ under Section 149 - Settlements of the Employment Relations Act 2000 (as amended) also known as "settlement agreements". These are all signed off by an agent of MBIE so you must have this data. I would like this data for the last ten years - you may decide to do this annually by financial year or annually by calendar year - whatever best suits how you hold this data. Just as long as the year basis is the same for each of the 10 years so I can make a year on year comparison. I am aware, Privacy of natural persons that each of these is confidential to the parties BUT the macro data of number per year is not so I will challenge any decision to not provide this data. It is an important piece of public data for the NZ public to be cognizant of. The normal 20 working days may suffice but if you need longer I can discuss this. Please accept my thanks and appreciation, in advance, for both this data and the work involved in collating it. Best regards - Privacy of natural persons*

The following table outlines the settlement applications per year since 2013:

Number of Record of settlement applications	
2013 Calendar Year	5125
2014 Calendar Year	5707
2015 Calendar Year	6593
2016 Calendar Year	7992
2017 Calendar Year	8321
2018 Calendar Year	9069
2019 Calendar Year	9892
2020 Calendar Year	10887
2021 Calendar Year	9283
2022 Calendar Year	9295
Jan 2023-End of July 2023	5998
Null (no submitted date)	90

Please note that a system change in 2016 resulted in a different methodology for calculating the total number of settlement applications. This may have impacted the total number of settlement applications recorded between systems.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact [OIA@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:OIA@mbie.govt.nz).

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pele Walker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pele Walker  
**Director, Dispute Resolution**  
Employment Services