



7 September 2020

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Kia ora Shane

Thank you for your email of 13 July 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Please provide an extract of data from the system you currently use to track information requests submitted under the Official Information Act 1982.*

*The extract should be in a machine readable form. This means either via a publicly accessible API or file in csv or JSON format.*

*The extract should have the following details in a single row for each request that was submitted:*

- *The title of the request.*
- *The date your organisation received the request*
- *The date of the final response from your organisation to that request, or the date you closed the request*

*To reduce the effort required by your organisation I am requesting records for the date range that the data is available in your OIA tracking system. For example if your OIA tracking system only holds two years of records then I am requesting data for those two years.*

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

We are releasing the attached spreadsheet, as **Appendix A** to this letter, which details the title of each request, the date received, where applicable the date we made a decision on the request under the Act and the date of our final response.

We have provided you with details of requests received since 1 July 2018, being the period that our current tracking system has been in operation, until the date of your request.

The titles of the requests are as recorded in the tracking sheet in short form for administrative purposes and in most cases are not the full wording of the request received.

Section 15 of the Act requires that agencies make a decision on requests as soon as reasonably practicable and, in any event, within 20 working days of the request being received. You will note

that a number of the decision dates recorded in this spreadsheet are more than 20 working days from the date the request was received. This is because the Act provides that the timeframe for responding may be extended in certain circumstances and also that information may be released subsequent to the decision to grant the request (for example, where the request is for a large volume of information that needs to be released in tranches).

We are withholding some information under section 9(2)(a) of the Act *to protect the privacy of certain individuals* and section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act *to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.*

We have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act and do not believe the public interest outweighs the rights to privacy of the individuals concerned and the need for information to continue to be supplied in confidence.

The table includes the total number of requests received by the Ministry as well as those that have been responded to. Where a response is still in progress that has been noted in the column on the date the Ministry made a decision. Note that the Public Service Commission reporting of the Ministry's requests under the Act only covers those that have been responded to within the relevant period and would not include those that are still in progress. For the reasons detailed above, the spreadsheet should not be used as a proxy for the Ministry's timeliness in responding to requests under the Act.

As part of the public sector's commitment to openness and transparency, the Ministry regularly reports to both the Office of the Ombudsman and the Public Service Commission on different aspects of our compliance with the Act. You can find this information at the following links:

The Public Service Commission's website is here:

<https://www.publicservice.govt.nz/resources/official-information-statistics/>

The Office of the Ombudsman's website is here:

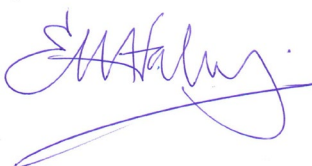
<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/resources/oia-complaints-received-resolutions-july-2016-december-2019>

We also proactively release information and publish our responses under the Act at the following link:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-official-information-act-requests/>

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.

Ngā mihi



Emily Fabling  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Strategy, Planning and Governance**