

24 March 2021

James Lockhead-MacMillan

By email: fyi-request-14882-aeeba7c2@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear James

Re: Official Information Act request – Early Childhood Sleep rooms

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 9 March 2021 requesting the following information:

Health & Safety Guidelines for Early Childhood Centres, Can I request if any ECE centre during either the licensing process or at any other time has been asked to and/or was able to prove the sleep room would not be subject to sound pressures above your guidance levels?

I am responding from Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) as the DHB responsible for Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS).

ARPHS provides public health services to all three metro Auckland district health boards – Waitematā District Health Board, Counties Manukau Health and Auckland District Health Board, and the populations they serve. ARPHS' core role is to protect and promote public health.

The Education (Early Childhood Services) Regulations 2008 do not prescribe noise levels for ECE's. Specifically, there are no prescribed noise levels for sleep-rooms. The direction is for the centre to ensure 'all practicable steps are taken' to manage noise so as not interfere with speech, cause distress or harm. ARPHS guidelines on the subject are advisory.

ARPHS conducts pre-licensing inspections during which subjective noise assessments are made of all play areas to consider if it is appropriate to make acoustic recommendations for child wellbeing purposes. This considers ambient noise at the time of inspection, but does not specifically relate to sleep areas. Therefore, we are declining to answer your question under section 18(g) as the information you have requested is not held by ARPHS

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ailsa Claire'.

Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)