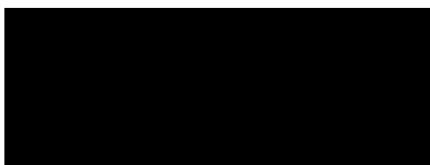




1 - November 2019



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- 1. How many reports of restraint there were between August 2018 to August 2019?*
- 2. What is the total number of students involved in restraint?*
- 3. Please identify the number of restraints by gender. (We understand that some children will have been physically restrained more than once, so that the answer to this question will not necessarily add up to the number given in response to question 1).*
- 4. Please indicate the number of physical restraints by school type (primary, composite, secondary and special).*
- 5. Please indicate the number of restraints by age at incident.*
- 6. Please indicate the number of restraints by ethnicity.*
- 7. For those students who were physically restrained, how many have the use of physical restraint in their plan?*
- 8. For those students who were physically restrained, how many have an individual behaviour plan?*
- 9. For those students who were physically restrained, how many students were restrained by a teacher or authorised staff member?*
- 10. How many of those performing restraint had received training prior to the incident?*
- 11. Please indicate the number of physical restraints occurring on the same day.*
- 12. Please indicate the role of the staff member who applied restraint.*
- 13. Please indicate if a child was injured during the restraint.*
- 14. Please indicate if an adult was injured during the restraint.*
- 15. Please indicate if the physical restraint was the first time.*

16. Please indicate if parents/caregivers were notified when restraint had been applied.

17. Please indicate the follow up action type after physical restraint has occurred.

Please find the information you have requested attached as **Appendix A**.

Physical restraint is regulated via a combination of the Education Act 1989 (the Act), the Education (Physical Restraint) Rules 2017 (the Rules) and the Guidelines for Registered Schools in NZ on the Use of Physical Restraint (the Guidelines). The Act and Rules set out what schools must do and the Guidelines outline good practice in using, monitoring and reporting on physical restraint.

Section 139AC of the Act defines "physical restraint" as "using force to prevent, restrict or subdue the movement of a student's body or part of the student's body".

The Act limits the use of physical restraint by teachers or authorised staff members in schools to situations where:

- the teacher or staff member reasonably believes that the safety of the student or of any other person is at serious and imminent risk; and
- the restraint used is reasonable and proportionate in the circumstances.

Teachers and authorised staff members need to use their professional judgement to decide what constitutes "a serious and imminent risk to safety". Situations may include where a student is physically attacking another person, or is about to, or a student is throwing furniture, computers, or breaking glass close to others who would be injured if hit.

Under the Rules, all incidents of physical restraint must be reported to the Ministry of Education and the employer. This helps to provide appropriate support to schools and students.

Thank you again for your email. If you have any further queries about this matter please direct these to enquiries.national@education.govt.nz. You also have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review our decision on your information request. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Coralanne Child
Acting Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Appendix A

Caveats for data use

- The data is live and is subject to change (as schools can backdate incidents).
- Students can be restrained more than once.

1. How many reports of restraint there were between August 2018 to August 2019?

The Ministry of Education received 2,823 notification reports of incidents of physical restraint between 1 August 2018 and 31 August 2019.

2. What is the total number of students involved in restraint?

1,340 students were the subject of restraint, identified from 2,698 incidents with sufficient student data.

The number of students for the remaining 125 incidents reported is not identifiable due to insufficient data.

3. Please identify the number of restraints by gender.

Gender	Number of Restraints	Number of Students
Female	418	193
Male	2280	1147
Unknown/Data Not Available	125	N/A

4. Please indicate the number of physical restraints by school type (primary, composite, secondary and special).

School Type Grouping*	Number of Restraints
Primary	1833
Composite	122
Secondary	141
Special	727

*Note: please refer to the table below for further description of the school type groupings.

School Type Grouping	School Types
Primary	Full Primary (Year 1-8)
	Contributing (Year 1-6)
	Intermediate (Year 7 & 8)
Composite	Composite (Year 1-15)
	Correspondence School
Secondary	Restricted Composite (Year 7-10)
	Secondary (Year 7-15)
	Secondary (Year 9-15)
Special	Special School

5. Please indicate the number of restraints by age at incident.

Age at Incident	Number of Restraints
4	1
5	340
6	292
7	329
8	307
9	315
10	329
11	326
12	147
13	134
14	78
15	51
16	22
17	19
18	3
19	2
20	3
Unknown/Data Not Available	125

6. Please indicate the number of restraints by ethnicity.

Ethnicity*	Number of Restraints**	Number of Students**
European/Pākeha	1712	811
Māori	1059	551
Pacific	350	152
Asian	80	48
MELAA	24	16
Other	12	8

*Note: This data uses total response for Ethnicity; students who identified in more than one ethnic group have been counted in each ethnic group. Ethnic groups should not be summed, as this could lead to double counting of some students.

**The 125 incidents with insufficient student data are excluded from this table.

7. For those students who were physically restrained, how many have the use of physical restraint in their plan?

Physical restraint part of the plan?	Number of Restraints
Yes	1417
No	1234
Unknown/Data Not Available	172

8. For those students who were physically restrained, how many have an individual behaviour plan?

Student has an Individual Behaviour Plan?	Number of Restraints
Yes	1904
No	893
Unknown/Data Not Available	26

9. For those students who were physically restrained, how many students were restrained by a teacher or authorised staff member?

Student restrained by a teacher or authorised staff member?	Number of Restraints
Yes	2779
No	33
Unknown/Data Not Available	11

10. How many of those performing restraint had received training prior to the incident?

Training received prior to incident?	Number of Restraints
Yes	2216
No	589
Unknown/Data Not Available	18

11. Please indicate the number of physical restraints occurring on the same day.

The table below presents the number of restraints individual students had on the same day. For example, one student was physically restrained six times on the same day, and six students were physically restrained four times on the same day.

Number of restraints on the same day*	Number of Students**
1	1298
2	93
3	6
4	6
6	1

*Note: Students with different numbers of restraints which occurred on different days have been counted in each frequency group. The number of students should not be summed, as it may lead to double counting.

**The 125 incidents with insufficient student data are excluded from this table

12. Please indicate the role of the staff member who applied restraint.

Role of staff member who applied restraint	Number of restraints*
Teacher	1522
Teacher Aide	610
Principal	371
Deputy Principal	345
Youth Worker	102
Other	557

*Note: Restraints which involved multiple staff members have been counted in each role type. Number of restraints for each role should not be summed as it may lead to double counting.

13. Please indicate if a child was injured during the restraint.

14. Please indicate if an adult was injured during the restraint.

The physical restraint form includes a 'free text' box for schools to describe the injury but does not require the injury to be categorised by recipient (student or adult).

We are unable to analyse the "free text" fields within the time available due to substantial collation requirements. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act as a response cannot be provided without substantial collation and research.

The table below presents the number of restraints broken down by whether or not anyone was injured during a restraint.

Anyone injured?	Number of restraints
Yes	875
No	1926
Unknown/Data Not Available	22

15. Please indicate if the physical restraint was the first time.

First time a student was physically restrained?	Number of restraints
Yes	1112
No	1685
Unknown/Data Not Available	26

16. Please indicate if parents/caregivers were notified when restraint had been applied.

Parents notified?	Number of restraints
Yes	2621
No	164
Unknown/Data Not Available	38

17. Please indicate the follow up action type after physical restraint has occurred.

Follow up actions	Number of Restraints
Follow up discussion/visit with school	1815
Training for team supporting student	187
Meeting with school team supporting student	166
Developing a support plan	159
Training for school	155
Additional support put in place	136
Referral for service	99
Other	306