



19 DEC 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 25 November 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *Names of schools and with in [sic] the South Island (including Stewart Island) who have a marae, a whare nui or other building that has significant cultural appearance that can be used as a marae.*

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

Schools are not required to inform the Ministry of all the ways they use each of their school buildings. As such the databases that the Ministry uses to store and categorise this information does not have a search field for cultural buildings and there is also no uniformity in how schools report buildings with cultural appearance. This means that while we can provide a list of schools with buildings that have cultural appearance for Māori, it will not be a comprehensive or complete list.

We searched through our databases for school buildings, or rooms within buildings, that are labelled as 'marae', 'wharenuī', or 'whara nui'. By using this method we were able to confirm that at least 11 schools in the South Island, including Stewart Island, have 12 marae or other such buildings with cultural appearance. A list of those schools is attached to this response as **Appendix A**. In an effort to be transparent I have also provided a break down by region and have included the North Island statistics.

The Ministry recognises the value of having cultural buildings, like marae, in schools and having them accessible to students, whānau and the community. They provide spaces for students, whānau, and staff to teach, learn, and live their culture within the state education system. The Ministry is committed to ensuring all students, regardless of cultural heritage, have an inclusive and supportive school where they can learn in a way that is culturally engaging. Having access to Māori language and culture is encouraged within the New Zealand Curriculum for all students, not just Māori students.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kim Shannon', is positioned above the printed name.

Kim Shannon  
**Head of Education Infrastructure Service**

## Appendix A

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### Number of Cultural Buildings by Ministry of Education Area

Ministry of Education Area	Count of School Number
<b>Group 1</b>	
Tai Tokerau	8
Auckland	32
Waikato	20
Bay of Plenty, Waiairiki	16
Hawke's Bay, Tairāwhiti	8
Taranaki, Whanganui, Manawatu	11
Wellington	20
<b>Group 2</b>	
Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast	3
Canterbury, Chatham Islands	5
Otago, Southland	4
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>127</b>

### Total Number of Cultural Buildings

Area	Count of School Number
<b>North Island</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>South Island</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>127</b>

### List of Schools in South Island and Stewart Island with Cultural Buildings

School Name	School Authority	Local Office	Building Name
Weedons School	State	Canterbury	Te Wharenuui
Brockville School	State	Otago, Southland	SENIOR
Aparima College	State	Otago, Southland	BOT Wharenuui
Mairehau High School	State	Canterbury	Block M Wharenuui
Parklands School (Motueka)	State	Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast	Room 14
East Otago High School	State	Otago, Southland	Block H WHARENUI
Bayfield High School	State	Otago, Southland	Block B
Kaikoura High School	State	Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast	WHARE WANANGA
Nelson Central School	State	Nelson, Marlborough, West Coast	BLOCK G - WHARENUI
Breens Intermediate	State	Canterbury	Block 2
Mountainview High School	State	Canterbury	C Block C - WHENUA
Mountainview High School	State	Canterbury	D Block D - HIWI