



[REDACTED]
Fairfax Media
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

On 6 September 2017 you requested the following information:

"... expenses for the Board of Trustees, school and principal, of each of ... [31 Waikato area schools] ... for the 2014, 2015, 2016 school years."

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

Under the Education Act 1989 and the Crown Entities Act 2004, State schools are required to submit an annual report to the Ministry, which includes an audited annual financial statement. This includes the expenses paid to the board of trustees, the school expenses as well as the salary band information for their principal.

In response to your request, please find attached a table (Appendix A) showing the boards of trustees' fees and expenses and school expenses for 2014, 2015 and 2016. This data has been extracted from each school's annual financial statement. You should note that private schools are not required to have a board of trustees – that requirement only applies to state (including state-integrated) schools and special institutions.

The Ministry does not stipulate that a proportion of a school's operational funding must be used for paying board members. The board is responsible for the finances of the school. However, it is common practice for schools to reimburse board members for expenditure or to provide them with a nominal payment. This is part of schools recognising that there are costs associated with being a trustee – e.g. attendance at and travel to and from meetings.

The board approves the budget that allocates funding appropriately to develop a learning environment that meets the needs of all students. The school budget must align to charter goals and aims and is monitored at each board meeting.

Alongside this, the board must ensure that annual accounts are prepared which meet audit requirements which are then made available to the school's auditor. These accounts form part of the school's annual report submitted to the Ministry.

In regards to your request for Principal expenses, attached is an additional table (Appendix B) showing remuneration and benefit/emolument bands for the same schools for 2014, 2015 and 2016. This data has also been extracted from each school's annual financial statement.

Principals' remuneration packages are decided under a collective agreement. The package comprises a school roll-based component and payments based on the school's staffing level, and, where applicable, the decile rating, whether it is an area school and any career development needs. Information about these collective agreements and Principals' salaries is publicly available on the Ministry's website:

<http://education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/employing-and-managing-staff/collective-agreements/>

<http://education.govt.nz/ministry-of-education/publications/education-circulars/2016-circulars/circular-201606/>

<https://education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/employing-and-managing-staff/collective-agreements/area-school-principals-collective-agreement/part-3-remuneration/3-1-principals-remuneration/>

There is more information at the following link in regard to teachers' salaries and schools' operational and property funding:

www.educationcounts.govt.nz/find-school

I trust the information is of assistance. Should you have any further queries, please contact the Ministry's Media Team at Media@education.govt.nz.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support