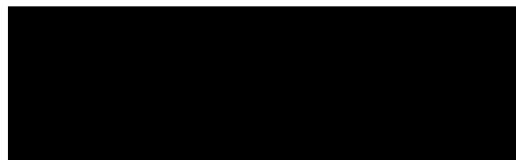




04 DEC 2017



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 8 November 2017 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *How many schools in South Canterbury have applied for interim response funding in the past five years? Can I please also get a breakdown of the names of the schools?*
2. *How many applications have been received from South Canterbury, in total, in the past five years? Can I please get a breakdown of the number of applications from each of those schools?*
3. *How many of those applications were accepted and where were they accepted?*
4. *The number of individual students at each school, in the past five years, that have received IRF support?*
5. *Can you please, also, explain what the interim response fund support is for and why schools would use it?*
6. *Anything else you may wish to add?*

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

The Interim Response Fund (IRF) was established in 2007 to provide additional support to schools to manage acute events that could not have been foreseen or reasonably planned for. Most applications for IRF funding are for behavioural events where the safety of a student or others is at risk. The fund is available so that principals are able to provide a quick, flexible response to a behaviour crisis, and put a short-term management plan in place. In the 2016/17 financial year the IRF was funded to \$4m. This money is distributed across our 10 regional offices on a student population basis at the start of each financial year (1 July).

The Ministry's regional offices decide how much to allocate for each IRF application based on the severity of the situation, the needs of the individual and their regional budget. In recent years, the percentage of IRF applications accepted, and the number of students receiving IRF support has steadily increased.

While regions are expected to manage their IRF allocations, it is recognised that some regions have higher needs than others and may need to spend beyond their fund allocation when there is strong demand for this support. Our primary focus is always on the needs of the student. We monitor IRF spend closely to ensure that resourcing is shared fairly between regions and applied to the areas of greatest need.

When an IRF application is received, we work with the school to determine whether it is the right support for their situation, or if another form of support would be more appropriate. Whilst there are no hard and fast rules, interim support is generally negotiated up to five weeks and the amount of support offered will be dependent on the nature of the situation. When approval has been given, a confirmation email is sent to the school. Once the school replies to that email, payment is processed.

We are constantly reviewing the way we support students with additional learning needs to ensure our regional offices are equipped to deal with changes in demand and the IRF is just one of the many ways we support schools responding to challenging behaviour. Nationally, up to 10,000 students are receiving extra assistance for behavioural issues a year, with funding of \$95m. As well as offering support to schools for children with specific behavioural issues, our programme Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) School-Wide is also available to help change school cultures for the better. More than 800 schools have accessed PB4L School-Wide to date – including more than half the country's secondary schools. Budget 2017 provided an additional \$34.7m over four years for specialist behaviour services for children under the age of eight.

The information you have requested in relation to South Canterbury has been collated in the table attached to this response as **Appendix A**. Please note that the difference between the 'total number of IRF applications accepted' and the 'number of individual students who received IRF support' is due to the fact that a student may have multiple IRF claims, claims across multiple years, or might change schools within a year (and thus have separate claims from different schools).

Thank you again for your email. If you have any further queries, please contact the Ministry's media team in the first instance (media.team@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



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

| No of schools that applied = 40 | Applications made per school | Applications paid declined | Applications pending/ in process | Individual Students per school |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Albury School | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Aoraki Mount Cook School | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Arowhenua Maori School | 7 | 6 | 1 | 5 |
| Barton Rural School | 11 | 10 | 1 | 7 |
| Beaconsfield School | 9 | 9 | 0 | 2 |
| Bluestone School | 13 | 12 | 1 | 9 |
| Cannington School | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Fairlie School | 5 | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Geraldine High School | 14 | 14 | 0 | 12 |
| Geraldine Primary School | 15 | 15 | 0 | 12 |
| Glenavy School | 10 | 10 | 0 | 6 |
| Gleniti School | 11 | 11 | 0 | 5 |
| Grantlea Downs School | 34 | 34 | 0 | 16 |
| Highfield School | 67 | 65 | 0 | 35 |
| Mackenzie College | 6 | 5 | 1 | 3 |
| Makikihi School | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Mountainview High School | 11 | 11 | 0 | 6 |
| Oceanview Heights School | 10 | 10 | 0 | 4 |
| Opihi College | 29 | 28 | 0 | 14 |
| Pleasant Point Primary School | 13 | 13 | 0 | 6 |
| Roncalli College | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Sacred Heart School (Timaru) | 9 | 9 | 0 | 4 |
| St Andrew's School (Timaru) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 |
| St Joseph's School (Fairlie) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| St Joseph's School (Pleasant Point) | 3 | 3 | 0 | 1 |
| St Joseph's School (Temuka) | 6 | 6 | 0 | 3 |
| St Joseph's School (Timaru) | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| St Patrick's School (Waimate) | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Temuka Primary School | 14 | 14 | 0 | 9 |
| Timaru Boys' High School | 11 | 11 | 0 | 6 |
| Timaru Christian School | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Timaru South School | 7 | 7 | 0 | 5 |
| Twizel Area School | 7 | 7 | 0 | 4 |
| Waimataitai School | 18 | 18 | 0 | 9 |
| Waimate Centennial School | 16 | 16 | 0 | 8 |
| Waimate High School | 14 | 13 | 1 | 7 |
| Waimate Main School | 16 | 16 | 0 | 7 |
| Waituna Creek School | 9 | 9 | 0 | 6 |
| Winchester Rural School | 6 | 6 | 0 | 4 |
| Woodbury School | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 418 | 409 | 6 | 236 |

NOTE: this data covers the period 1 January 2013 to 10 November 2017