



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 August 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many students were suspended from private schools in New Zealand each year for the last five years?*
- *How many students were expelled from private schools in New Zealand each year for the last five years?*
- *Can you advise how many notifications under s 35Q were made to the Ministry each year in the last five years?*
- *What notifications has the Ministry made to private schools drawing their attention to their obligations under this section of the Act and the reason for those obligations?*

Your request has been considered under the Act.

The table below shows the number of students suspended and expelled from private schools each year from 2014 to 2018, and answers your first two questions. Note that the table shows the number of students suspended or expelled, and not the number of cases, as one student might be suspended or expelled more than once in one year.

Year	No of students suspended	No of students expelled
2014	59	5
2015	36	0
2016	65	3
2017	50	11
2018	52	0

I am refusing the third part of your request, for the number of notifications made to the Ministry under section 35(q) of the Education Act 1989, under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds that supplying it would require substantial collation and research. This is because each notification of a suspension or expulsion is coded against each student's individual profile. One student may have been suspended or expelled more than once in the time period covered by your request. For this reason, while it is straightforward to obtain the numbers of students suspended or expelled, determining the total number of notifications received would require going through every student's profile individually, and would constitute a significant administrative burden on the Ministry.

OIA: 1203595

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Additional difficulties in gathering this data arise from the fact that a student may have changed from a private school to a state school. Additional work would be required to determine whether a particular notification arose from a period in which the student was enrolled in a private school or not.

I am also refusing the fourth part of your request, for notifications the Ministry has made to private schools drawing attention to their obligations under section 35(q) of the Education Act, under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, on the grounds that answering it would require substantial collation and research. This is because the Ministry's regional offices communicate directly with schools concerning this and other statutory responsibilities they have. Such communications may be embedded in a wide range of communications across a wide range of mediums, and identifying and collating all information falling within scope of this part of your request would place a significant administrative burden on the Ministry's normal operations.

Thank you again for your email. If you have any further queries about this matter please direct these to [enquiries.national@education.govt.nz](mailto: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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**