



04 DEC 2017

Reporter  
Fairfax Media  
Auckland

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 7 November 2017 in which you request the following information:

*"Can you please provide data for the 2017 calendar year, January to December for the following:*

*The annual total of the voluntary donations component of school fees received by each school in New Zealand."*

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

We are refusing your request under section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is not held by the Ministry and we have no grounds for believing that the information is held by another agency.

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.

The schools' draft annual financial statements for the year ending 31 December 2017 are due with their auditors by 31 March 2018, and the audited financial statements are due with the Ministry by 31 May 2018.

The figure for donations in the audited financial statements is reported as a total. There is no breakdown of donations into voluntary donations sought and received by the school, donations made by individuals other than parents, donations made by charitable trusts, or donations made by other entities including business firms.

We are therefore unable to provide you with the requested donations data for 2017 and, if you were to request it, for earlier years.

Individual schools may record, in their accounts, a breakdown in donations in a way that suits the purposes of the school. Even if you approached each school in turn, you may not be able to obtain the specific information you are interested in.

On average, donations contribute 1.8% of the total revenue that schools receive each year. Further information about school donations can be found on our website at: [www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/school-finances/accounting-for-donations-fundraising-and-other-income/](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/school-finances/accounting-for-donations-fundraising-and-other-income/)

School level donations data is not held on the Education Counts website. A summary of schools' donations for 2016 is available in the *New Zealand Schools: Ngā Kura o Aotearoa (2016)* report. This can be found at:  
<http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/schooling/2523>

The Ministry has also published an earlier response under the Act in which it released information about donations collected by state and state-integrated schools between 2000 and 2014. This can be found at: <http://education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Information-releases/Responses-to-Official-Information-Act-Requests/Donation-data.pdf>

If you have any questions about this response or wish to make a further request, please feel free to contact our Media Team at [media@education.govt.nz](mailto: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](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**