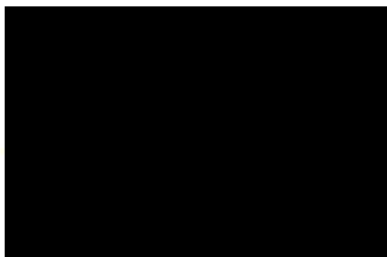




1 November 2019



Thank you for your email of 2 October 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *The number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions for sexual harassment or sexual misconduct at New Zealand schools for 2019 to date, broken down by region.*

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

We are providing you the number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions for sexual harassment or sexual misconduct, by region, for 2019 to date as an **Appendix** to this response. If the number of incidences in a category is fewer than five we have withheld the figure under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned. Where this is the case, these figures have been replaced with < 5. There are some caveats on the interpretation of this data which is also included in the appendix.

A stand-down is the removal of a student for a period of up to five days in a school term, where the decision is made by the Principal. A student may only be stood-down for a total of 10 school days in a year.

Stand-downs can offer an opportunity to reduce tension and reflect on the action which led to the stand-down. Used appropriately, a stand-down can be a positive mechanism for preventing escalation. However, its use should be part of a proactive approach and should be kept to a minimum due to the disruption to student's learning which is inherent in the mechanism.

A suspension is the formal removal of a student from a state or state-integrated school on a temporary basis until the school Board of Trustees (the Board) decides the final outcome at a meeting. The Board can then either:

- lift the suspension (with or without conditions),
- extend the suspension, or
- exclude the student (if under 16) or expel the student (if aged 16 years or over).

Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of suspension where an enrolment is terminated. If the student is under 16 years old, the board may decide to exclude the student from the school, with the requirement that the student enrolls elsewhere.

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. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at [media@education.govt.nz](mailto:media@education.govt.nz). If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. 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



Coralanne Child  
**Acting Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**

Proactively Released in Accordance with the Official Information Act 1982

## Appendix

*Number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions for Sexual harassment or Sexual Misconduct by Regional Council, from the 1 January 2019 to 14 October 2019.*

Regional Council	Year	Stand-Downs	Suspensions	Exclusions	Expulsions
Auckland	2019	40	19	6	< 5
Bay of Plenty Region	2019	5	< 5		
Canterbury Region	2019	35	7	< 5	
Gisborne Region	2019	< 5			
Hawke's Bay Region	2019	< 5	< 5	< 5	
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	2019	15	< 5		< 5
Marlborough Region	2019		< 5		
Nelson Region	2019	6			
Northland Region	2019	11	< 5	< 5	
Otago Region	2019	6	< 5	< 5	
Southland Region	2019	< 5			
Taranaki Region	2019	< 5	< 5		
Tasman Region	2019	< 5			
Waikato Region	2019	26	8	< 5	
Wellington Region	2019	14	< 5	< 5	< 5
West Coast Region	2019	< 5	< 5		

### Caveats:

- Data was extracted on 14th of October 2019 and includes incidences recorded up to this date.
- Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of suspensions and should not be added to suspensions.
- It is important to note that suspensions, exclusions and expulsions are not measures of student behaviour but measures of a school's reaction to such behaviours. What one school may choose to suspend for, another may not. The number of these events should not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.