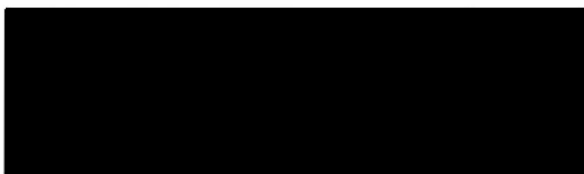




7 April 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 5 February 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. How many incidents at schools were the Ministry of Education notified of, in each year from 2010, involving threats of serious violence?*
- 2. How many incidents at tertiary institutions were the Ministry of Education notified of, in each year from 2010 involving threats of serious violence?*
- 3. Have the Ministry of Education done any risk assessments of the likelihood of terrorism or mass shootings at a New Zealand School or University?*
- 4. Do the Ministry of Education believe the risks are increasing of a terrorism or mass shooting at a NZ School or University?*
- 5. Have the Ministry of Education taken steps directly or with other agencies, to ensure adequate monitoring of social media, to reduce the risks of serious violence at a school or university?*

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

### **Question One**

The Ministry does not keep an official record of threats of serious violence. As these situations often require prompt action by the school, we often only become aware of such threats through the Police or media reports. Principals are responsible for the day-to-day operations of their schools and are not required to report such threats to the Ministry. In the event that we are notified of such threats, we may respond by assisting Police with locking down schools, or by directly providing assistance, such as traumatic incident support.

We respond to any notification of serious threats of violence on a case by case basis and escalate accordingly depending on the seriousness of the threat of violence.

For further information on responses to threats of serious violence, we suggest that you contact the New Zealand Police.

## **Question Two**

As with schools, there is no requirement for tertiary institutions to notify the Ministry of serious threats of violence. There is no formal register of such notifications.

## **Question Three**

We have worked with Police and sector representatives last year to provide new guidance to schools and early learning services on managing security threats. The guidance was to align with the newly launched [Protecting Our Crowded Places from Attack: New Zealand's Strategy](#).

More information on the Ministry's approach to security considerations can be found in the [Planning and preparing for emergencies practical guide](#). Please refer to Section 2 "Planning", and Appendix 1 of this document.

More Ministry guidance to support schools and early learning services with managing emergencies and traumatic incidents can be found here: [Emergencies and traumatic incidents – Education in New Zealand](#).

## **Question Four**

It is beyond the remit of the Ministry of Education to assess the threat of terrorist attacks or mass shootings in New Zealand.

However, if there were a heightened risk of a terrorist attack or other violent incident with the possibility of mass casualties in New Zealand, the Ministry would expect this threat to be communicated through the appropriate government channels for a government wide response.

## **Question Five**

The monitoring and analysis of social media for threats of violence is the responsibility of the New Zealand Police, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS), and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB). Please contact these agencies for further information on how such threats are monitored and handled.

Each school's Board of Trustees is legally and ultimately responsible for everything that happens in the school, which includes how students use the internet. The Ministry's role in ensuring online safety is to support the Boards, including the contracting of other agencies to provide services and advice to protect schools from online harm, which includes the use of social media. N4L is a Crown-owned company that is contracted to provide safe and secure internet services to schools, including firewall and web filtering services. Whilst N4L provides the tools to manage settings, schools choose their own web filtering options to match the needs of their own communities and teaching philosophies.

Netsafe is an independent, non-profit online safety organisation that is contracted to help students using the internet stay safe online through education, advice and reducing harm when negative incidents occur. The Ministry funds Netsafe to support schools with online safety services and would encourage anyone wanting online safety advice or incident support to contact Netsafe.

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.team@education.govt.nz](mailto:media.team@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.

Nāku noa, nā



Helen Hurst  
**Acting Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**