

## Ashleigh Watson

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**From:** Enquiries National  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 March 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OIA Response - 1251442  
**Attachments:** 1251442 - Attachment.pdf

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *Any OIA request that's been responded to – to any party – that relates to ECE's that have been shut down or had regulation breaches.*

As per your conversation with Stephanie Melville on Friday 26 February 2021, we are responding to your request per the following definition:

- *Any OIA request from a Media Journalist since 1 January 2020 that relates to Early Childhood Education service closures or regulation breaches.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). We have searched through our records and identified seven Official Information Act requests (OIAs) in scope of your clarified request.

Five OIA responses and our decision on release to you have been outlined in **Table 1** below.

Sometimes the Ministry's media team will respond directly to these requests for information, which are contained in **Table 2**.

**Table 1**

Date	Request	Decision on release
17 January 2020	Further information about a child safety incident in October 2019 at Manurewa West Kindergarten. This incident prompted the Ministry to undertake a licencing assessment to determine if the Kindergarten met the requirements of its licence.	The document has already been proactively released at the following link: <a href="http://education.govt.nz">education.govt.nz</a> Therefore, refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
11 February 2020	A copy of the 14 November 2019 Briefing Note titled <i>Update on analysis of early learning service closure date – Further Analysis</i> ".	The document has already been proactively released at the following link: <a href="http://education.govt.nz">education.govt.nz</a> Therefore, refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
23 September 2020	Funding and formal complaints that we have received about Best Start Educare centres between 2015 and 2020.	The document has already been proactively released at the following link: <a href="http://education.govt.nz">education.govt.nz</a> Therefore, refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
25 February 2020	All Ministry correspondence, reports, or other information about Pitter Patter.	The document has already been proactively released at the following link: <a href="http://education.govt.nz">education.govt.nz</a>

Date	Request	Decision on release
		Therefore, refused in full under section 18(d) of the Act
2 March 2021	All complaints against Pitter Patter Education Centre, against the Centre Manager, or any other staff, as well as information about the investigation.	<b>Released in Part</b> Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of individuals - <b>Attached</b>

**Table 2 – Media Responses**

Date Received	Request	Response
23 January 2020	Information about any complaints made about Early Childhood Centres throughout New Zealand between 2015 and 2020, and information specifically related to Best Start Inglewood since January 2019.	Requestor was directed to publicly available information at <a href="#">Education Counts</a>
14 September 2020	Data for complaints and incidents in Otago and Southland Early Childhood Centres between 2013 and 2019.	Requestor was directed to publicly available information at <a href="#">Education Counts</a>

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

**Enquiries National Team | Ministry of Education | TW**  
33 Bowen St, Wellington

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 We get the job done *Ka oti i a mātou ngā mahi*  
 We are respectful, we listen, we learn *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*  
 We back ourselves and others to win *Ka manawanui ki a mātou, me ētahi ake kia wīkitoria*  
 We work together for maximum impact *Ka mahi ngātahi mō te tūkinga nui tonu*

Great results are our bottom line *Ko ngā huanga tino pai ā mātou whāinga mutunga*



**From:** [Natasha Dingle](#)  
**To:** [Hemanth Nair](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Pitter Patter OIA request  
**Date:** Thursday, 4 March 2021 11:43:23 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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**From:** Natasha Dingle  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 2 March 2021 6:37 PM  
**To:** 9(2)(a)  
**Cc:** Media Responses Shared Mailbox <Media@education.govt.nz>; OIA Mailbox <OIA.Mailbox@education.govt.nz>  
**Subject:** Pitter Patter OIA request

Good evening 9(2)(a)

I've been advised that you've recently submitted an OIA request on Pitter Patter. I wanted to let you know that the information you're after would be withheld.

We've had other very similar requests from that we've recently had to withhold as the information you, and others, have requested is relevant to current and ongoing investigations by the Teaching Council. They've been withheld under section 6(c) of the Act, in order to avoid prejudicing the maintenance of the law, including the investigation of offences and the right to a fair trial.

I said I'd let you know to save time but let me know if you would like an 'official' response.

Kind regards,

Natasha

**Natasha Dingle** | Senior Business Partner | Communications Accounts  
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[education.govt.nz](http://education.govt.nz)

*We shape an education system that delivers equitable and excellent outcomes*  
*He mea tārai e mātou te mātauranga kia rangatira ai, kia mana taurite ai ōna huanga*

