



26 May 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 13 April 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *How many school buildings in NZ are considered at risk of leaks?*
2. *How many school buildings have been fixed in the past 5 years, or 10 years?*
3. *When are buildings considered high risk and required Ministry intervention?*

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

**1. *How many school buildings in NZ are considered at risk of leaks?***

There are around 2,100 schools in the state school system, and the decisions about their infrastructure are carried out locally, on a school-by-school basis. As such, the Ministry does not have a central list of all school buildings where their condition is noted.

In 2011, the Ministry surveyed all risk factors leading to weathertightness issues in school buildings as awareness of weathertightness issues became apparent. This identified about 2,400 school buildings which were deemed at risk. We estimated the cost of remediation to between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion. This informed a comprehensive programme of remediation and prevention strategies, where large and complex property projects are managed by the Ministry.

We prioritised work to address the largest and most pressing problems, focusing on known or possible health and safety issues first and foremost. About 600 individual buildings with varying degrees of weathertightness issues remain in the programme and we continue to work through these.

You can find additional information about the programme here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/property-and-transport/maintenance-repairs-security/weathertightness-remediation/>

**2. *How many school buildings have been fixed in the past 5 years, or 10 years?***

Annually, the Crown makes significant investment in education infrastructure assets and related services as this is central to ensuring that students and teachers have access to a quality learning environment.

The Education Infrastructure Service (EIS) is responsible for identifying and prioritising the Ministry's investment in improving the core infrastructure services covering property that underpin the quality of the learning environments.

In the 2019/20 financial year more than \$1.06 billion of capital expenditure was spent on school property to ensure it is well-maintained, and to progressively improve the condition of schools. This includes addressing building issues identified outside of the 2011 weathertightness review that may cause water ingress.

In addition, in late 2019, the Government announced the School Investment Package which invested a further \$395 million into school infrastructure. This programme has allowed schools to deliver discretionary projects that may otherwise have been deferred through lack of funding.

Property management and the delivery of infrastructure projects are part of a school's management responsibility and the Ministry does not systematically record or centrally collate which buildings in each of our approximately 2,100 schools have been remediated as part of a school's 10YPP. This number of schools would correspond to over 15,000 buildings or more than 35,500 teaching spaces.

As such the information you have requested is held by the Ministry in our reporting systems at a school level, rather than at a National level and to collate this information would significantly and unreasonably impact on the Ministry's ability to carry out our other functions.

I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as it would require substantial collation and research.

### **3. When are buildings considered high risk and required Ministry intervention?**

Boards are responsible for carrying out day-to-day maintenance of facilities and are funded to carry this out through the property maintenance grant (PMG). Boards are also responsible for identifying capital works needed to their facilities and submitting these plans to the Ministry for approval. The Ministry is responsible for providing funding to support Boards' ability to carry out their responsibilities, known as 5-year agreement funding (5YA), as well as providing guidance and advice to assist Boards in delivering school-managed capital works. Schools also receive property maintenance grants to pay for maintenance work on Ministry-owned buildings and facilities. In addition to the Boards responsibility, each school receives at least one visit per a year from a Ministry Property Advisor.

Where high priority works are identified, either through the 10YPP programme or through an independent report, that cannot be funded through a school's 5YA, supplementary funding may be considered. Planned investments are not classified based on risk, but are prioritised as follows:

- Priority 1: Health and Safety
- Priority 2: Essential Infrastructure
- Priority 3: Fit for Purpose Learning Environments
- Priority 4: Discretionary projects

Where projects are complex or significant in scale these interventions may be managed by the Ministry.

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



Kim Shannon  
**Te Tumu Waihanga**  
**Head of Education Infrastructure Service**