



18 May 2021



Thank you for your email of 16 April 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *Which Student Management System is used by each early childhood centre in New Zealand, tagged by Centre Number.*

*If this is not possible I would request*

- *The same information, just for centres that receive the 20 hours ECE funding*

*If this is not possible I would request*

- *Overall percentage or number of centres in New Zealand that are using each Student Management System*
- *The same information broken down by institution type and by region.*

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

The Ministry of Education's Early Learning Information (ELI) system collects and stores information on enrolment and attendance in early childhood education (ECE) for approximately 200,000 children throughout Aotearoa. Early Learning Services send information to the Ministry of Education through their Student Management System (SMS) or the Ministry's secure ELI Web application through the ELI Service Portal (ESP).

There are approximately 5500 services but not all ECE services are eligible to connect to ELI. Eligible services include licensed Education and Care services, Kindergartens, Playcentres, and Home-based Early Learning Services. Playgroups, Hospital-based, and Casual Education and Care services are not required to use ELI to submit enrolment and attendance information to the Ministry. The Ministry is working with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust to plan for Kōhanga Reo services to connect to ELI.

We are withholding the information requested in your first two bullet points under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act as the release would be likely to unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the ECE SMS vendors. We do not consider the public interest in the release of this information is sufficient to outweigh the need to protect the commercial position of the vendors concerned.

Although we acknowledge the school SMS information is in the public domain, we believe the different commercial contexts in which the schooling and early learning sectors operate prevent any precedent being applied.

We have provided the information requested in your last two bullet points in the form of an anonymised spreadsheet, attached as **Appendix A**. Please note the following caveats/notes which attach to this information:

- The data provided is based on the number of ECE services who submitted data to ELI by SMS. Kōhanga Reo, Playgroups, Casual Education and Care and Hospital based services are not required to submit data to ELI and are therefore not included in the table.
- The data does not include 14 new Early Childhood Education (ECE) services that are in the process of connecting to ELI.
- This data was extracted on 29 April 2021 and can only be guaranteed as accurate for that day. Services tend to switch Student Management Systems (SMSs) often, hence what is displayed here may not be the same tomorrow.
- Region is based on the Ministry of Education regions.
- The Ministry currently supports nine SMS vendors and the Ministry of Education's application, Education Service Portal (ESP).

The names of SMS vendors have been withheld (these have been replaced with numbers) under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act to protect their commercial position. This is due to the fact ECEs will regularly change SMS vendors. Please also note that three of the SMS vendors have been combined as SMS 'Other' because these vendors support less than 20 ECE services.

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. 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**