




3 June 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 21 April 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *Any document (whether that be correspondence or a formal report/briefing) the Ministry of Education holds that provides an estimate, indication or exact calculation of how many attendance officers and/or attendance advisors there are in New Zealand and/or a specific region. To confine the request, I am only requesting estimates, indications or exact calculations that relate to the number of attendance officers and/or attendance advisors within the last three years (ie going back three years from today's date).*

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

Attendance Officers are appointed by schools under section 48(2) of the Education and Training Act 2020. Multiple schools can appoint the same Officer. Schools are not required to inform the Ministry when they appoint. As such, the Ministry does not hold any documents which estimates or accurately notes the number of current Attendance Officers, or those that have been appointed previously.

Attendance Advisors on the other hand are employed by Attendance Service providers, which are contracted to deliver the service within a particular area. As they are independent, the Ministry does not determine how their funding should be spent to achieve effective delivery of its service. They are also not required to advise the Ministry of how they break down their staffing. As such, the Ministry does not routinely collate this information as the number of caveats limits the helpfulness of whatever figure is collated.

As the Ministry does not hold historic information on the number of Attendance Advisors and/or Attendance Officers and has not generated any *document (whether that be correspondence or a formal report/briefing) that provides an estimate, indication or exact calculation of how many attendance officers and/or attendance advisors there are in New Zealand and/or a specific region* within the three years prior to the date of your request, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

However, in response to several Parliamentary Questions on this topic, the Ministry went out to all Attendance Services and asked them to advise how many Attendance Advisors

were currently employed. I can therefore advise that, as at early May 2021, there were approximately 160 Attendance Advisors working across New Zealand.

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 or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support