



8 June 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 8 May 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *Schools throughout New Zealand which received SIP funding even though they fell outside the Ministry of Education's qualification requirements, their location and the amounts they received.*
2. *Records of schools which received SIP funding when they specifically fell within the MoE's definition of being a 'new school' and therefore not qualifying for SIP (Marshland School, Christchurch being an example).*
3. *Records specifying justification regarding each school that fell outside the MoE's criteria as to why they still received SIP funding.*

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

Further to previous correspondence you received from Rob Campbell on 1 October 2020, all schools that have received funding from the School Investment Package (SIP) were eligible to receive the funding, meeting the programme's criteria and intent.

The Ministry's definition of a "new" school for the purposes of the SIP was a school that was established as a state school in 2015 or later. It is important to make the distinction between schools first established after 2015 (which are ineligible for SIP funding), and schools first established before this date that have had facilities upgraded or replaced since 2015 (which are eligible for SIP funding). Schools that have recently been redeveloped or rebuilt were included in the programme as usually some original parts of the school remain, which would benefit from upgrade work.

With regards to Marshland School, while the school had a rebuild on a new site completed in 2016, it is not considered a "new" school from our definition as Marshland School was first established prior to 2015 and is eligible for SIP funding.

Further, discretionary works like playgrounds, landscaping, and signage (known as 'priority four' works in a school's 10 Year Property Plan) are not delivered by Ministry-led condition improvement projects. Redeveloped schools would still need to fund these types of projects from their 5 Year Agreement funding. However, the SIP funding allows them to deliver these works sooner.

We note that our definition of a "new school" was intentionally narrow, as it was our intent that the programme benefit as many students as possible.

Therefore, I am refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes Official Information Act 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



Kim Shannon
Te Tumu Waihanga
Head of Education Infrastructure Service