



13/07/2021

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 15 June 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. How the Kāpiti school bus contracts were awarded. With due particularity on inclusion of drivers and public on the decision process, fair wage agreements, historical service standards*

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

We have identified two documents as in scope for your request, which demonstrate how bids for school bus routes or route groups were evaluated by the Ministry during the recent School Bus Procurement. These are the **Request for Proposal (RFP)** documents that were available to prospective suppliers for both Tender 1 and Tender 2. Both documents outline the criteria and methodology for ranking and scoring bids. These criteria were applied consistently across all regions, including Kāpiti.

These RFP documents have now been published on the [Ministry of Education's website here](#). Therefore, I am refusing your request for *how the Kāpiti school bus contracts were awarded* under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information you have requested is publicly available.

I understand that you have already raised concerns about the procurement process to School Transport Group Manager, James Meffan. As James has already noted, the Ministry's process for appointing suppliers is designed to be fair and transparent, in line with best practice and the Government Procurement Rules. You can read more about the Rules here: procurement.govt.nz/procurement/principles-charter-and-rules/government-procurement-rules/.

Preferred suppliers were selected according to the public value represented by their bids, rather than solely on the basis of price. Public value is determined by balancing quality, price and broader outcomes such as economic, cultural, environmental and social benefits. In this procurement process, broader outcomes included support for regions, driver wellbeing and environmental outcomes.

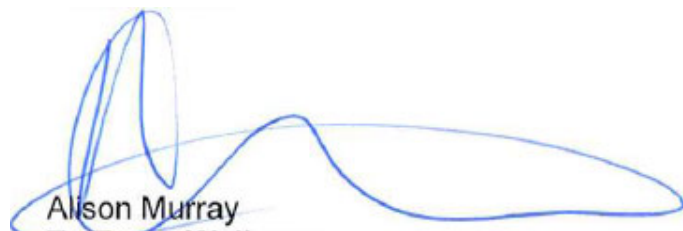
The procurement process was overseen by an independent Probity Auditor and assured by independent legal, procurement and transport experts. Audit New Zealand has prepared final reports for each tender that consider whether the procurement process was conducted in accordance with published procurement documentation, applicable rules, good practice and probity principles. These reports are available on the Ministry's website.

I also understand that James has directed you to a range of project documentation covering the design of the two-tender approach and planning of the procurement process, including the final Procurement Plan. This documentation and correspondence was released as part of the Ministry's response to an earlier request under the Official Information Act, and can be accessed here: education.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Bus-procurement-1229242.pdf.

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



Alison Murray
Te Tumu Waihanga
Head of Education Infrastructure Service (Acting)