



11 August 2021

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email of 1 July 2021 to the Ministry of Education, requesting the following information:

1. *Given that the 1st July attestation rate of \$24.69 represents a 3% increase on the pre-1st July attestation rate of \$23.97, what made the Minister believe that an approximately 0.15% increase in funding rates from 1st July was sufficient to cover this? **Please provide all calculations and briefing papers.***
2. *Why is the 1.2% increase, scheduled for 1st January 2022, not being implemented on 1st July 2021?*
3. ***Why is this 1.2% increase less than CPI** and thus represent a real-world reduction in funding? In answering this question, reference to the appropriate provisions of the Early Learning Action Plan that foresee an inflation-adjusted reduction in ECE funding would be appreciated.*
4. ***How was the figure of 2.57% arrived at? Please provide:***
 - a) ***all calculations and minutes of all meetings,***
 - b) ***the briefings provided to the Minister that led him to believe that this 2.57% increase would deliver what he asked for, and***
 - c) ***the briefings that the Minister provided to Cabinet that led them to believe that 2.57% would make a meaningful difference and allow more than a minority of services to opt-in to this premium funding rate.***
5. *Step six of the KTCA represents an increase of 28% compared with the attestation rate, Step one. The average of the six steps (including Step one) represents an over 12% increase compared with the attestation rate. Probably a majority of teachers would be eligible to go straight to Step 6. **Given this, please explain why the increase, rather than being 2.57%, was not somewhere between 12% and 28%?***

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

All briefings to the Minister of Education relating to the Budget 2021 pay parity initiative are publicly available. Therefore, I am refusing questions 1 and 4b of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available at:

[education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/issue-specific-releases/budget-2021-information-release/](https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/issue-specific-releases/budget-2021-information-release/).

The briefings do not include detailed information about the calculations you have requested. As we indicated in our extension letter to you, we have recently responded to similar requests for information which asked for the calculations used to produce the 2.57% figure referenced above. Therefore, I am refusing questions 4a and 5 under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is already publicly available at:

- education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1260678-response.pdf
- education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1263234-Response.pdf
- education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-Official-Information-Act-requests/1262298-Response.pdf.

There were no meetings held to produce the 2.57% figure. As such, there are no minutes in scope of this part of your request. Therefore, I am refusing the second part of question 4a under section 18(e) of the Act, as the requested information does not exist.

In response to question 2 of your request, I can advise that scheduling the cost adjustment increase for 1 January 2022 for Budget 2021 is consistent with previous budgets. Budgets 2018, 2019 and 2020 provided cost adjustments that were payable from January the following year. This is also consistent with the approach for the schooling and tertiary sectors.

Information is already available on why the cost adjustment was set at 1.2%. Therefore, I am refusing question 3 of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is already publicly available at:

education.govt.nz/our-work/publications/budget-2021/vote-education-summary-of-initiatives-2021/detailed-information-on-specific-initiatives-for-early-childhood-education/.

In response to question 4c of your request, the Budget Cabinet paper is where Cabinet was advised on the details of the pay parity initiative. The Vote Education budget decisions made by Cabinet are publicly available at:

budget.govt.nz/information-release/2021/pdf/b21-cab-21-min-0116-10-4444351.pdf.

Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, because the information is publicly available.

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



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy