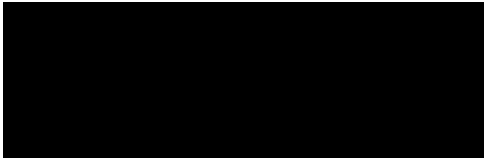




11 August 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

[These questions are in relation to just solely the Taranaki region. If you could please exclude Manawatū and Whanganui that'd be great.]

- 1. I am wanting to know if the Ministry of Education now collates how many reports of sexual assaults, attacks, misconduct, or sexualised behaviours occur in primary and secondary schools each year?*
- 2. If not, why not?*
- 3. If yes, could I please get a regional council breakdown on how many reports MOE received of sexual assaults, attacks, misconduct, or sexualised behaviours from 2019 to June 2021 and broken down into primary, intermediate, and secondary school.*
- 4. If not, could I also get a regional council (Taranaki) breakdown of how many stand downs, suspensions or expulsions have occurred due to sexual assaults, attacks, misconduct, or sexualised behaviours at school. Broken down into primary, intermediate, and secondary schools.*

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

I am wanting to know if the Ministry of Education now collates how many reports of sexual assaults, attacks, misconduct, or sexualised behaviours occur in primary and secondary schools each year?

We do not collect the information requested. It is therefore necessary for me to refuse this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

If not, why not?

Schools and kura are not required to report incidents of sexual harm to us. Each school board is responsible for their day-to-day operations, including setting health and safety policies and procedures that ensure a physically and emotionally safe environment for their students.

Schools and kura are required to have a Child Protection Policy in place that supports a strong culture of child protection. The Children's Act 2014 requires comprehensive measures

to be in place to protect and improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children. As part of its review of all schools, the Education Review Office checks that each school has a Child Protection Policy, and that it has been successfully implemented.

Schools have a responsibility to act, and depending on the incident, could report it to the Police, Oranga Tamariki, or the Teaching Council.

When we are made aware of concerns about student safety or wellbeing, we contact the school and help coordinate support with other agencies if needed. The young person's safety should always be the paramount consideration in the notification process.

If not, could I also get a regional council (Taranaki) breakdown of how many stand downs, suspensions or expulsions have occurred due to sexual assaults, attacks, misconduct, or sexualised behaviours at school. Broken down into primary, intermediate, and secondary schools.

In response to part four of your request, we have provided the following table.

Table: Number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions for sexual harassment or sexual misconduct behaviour by school type for the Taranaki regional council area from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2021.

It is important to note that suspensions, exclusions and expulsions are not measures of student behaviour, but measures of a school's reaction to such behaviours. What one school may choose to suspend for, another may not. The number of these events should not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.

School Type	Stand-Downs	Suspensions	Exclusions	Expulsions
Primary	14	0	0	0
Intermediate	<=5	0	0	0
Secondary	7	<=5	0	0

Please note the following caveats when viewing this data:

- The data was extracted on 19 July 2021 and includes incidences from 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2021.
- The data is live and subject to change.
- The number of students less than or equal to 5 have been masked due to privacy concerns. We are withholding actual student numbers under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of the individual students concerned. We have identified no public interest considerations sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold this information.
- School types have been defined as follows:
 - Primary schools include primary and contributing
 - Intermediate schools include intermediate
 - Secondary schools include secondary and composite

- Stand-down means the formal removal of a student from school for a specified period. Stand-downs of a particular student can total no more than five school days or ten days in a school year.
- Suspension means the formal removal of a student from school until the board decides the outcome at a suspension meeting.
- Exclusion means the formal removal of a student aged under 16 from the school and the requirement that the student enrol elsewhere.
- Expulsion means the formal removal of a student aged 16 years or over from the school. If the student wishes to continue schooling, he or she may enrol elsewhere.
- Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of suspensions and should not be added to suspensions

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. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz, or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Helen Hurst
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