



10 August 2021



Tēnā koe 

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

1. *A copy of Ministry of Education documentation and correspondence specifying the definition of the eligibility of schools to receive Schools Investment Programme funding including the definition of what is deemed a 'new' school.*
2. *A copy of any Ministry of Education documentation and correspondence defining guidelines/procedures to be applied regarding the eligibility of New Zealand schools existent prior to 2015, for Schools Investment Programme funding, when rebuilt on a new site.*
3. *In the Ministry of Education's 8 June 2021 reply to my previous Official Information Act request it is stated: With regards to Marshland School, while the school had a new 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.*

Setting aside the clear lack of common sense in the Ministry of Education's definition of a 'new' school (the MoE's definition meaning in effect new school, new site, old name therefore eligible for SIP funding), this definition does not appear to have been applied with consistency.

Therefore, please supply documentation and correspondence outlining how the decision was reached to not grant Redcliffs School (new school, new site, opened under the Redcliffs name well prior to 2015) SIP funding. It does not appear as an eligible school on the Ministry of Education's schools' eligibility list.

4. *Please supply the names of new build/new site/opened prior to 2015 New Zealand schools which did not receive SIP funding although eligible under the Ministry of Education's definition of eligible schools (there are others in Christchurch I am aware of).*
5. *Please supply the names of new build/new site/opened prior to 2015 New Zealand schools which did receive SIP funding.*

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

1. **A copy of Ministry of Education documentation and correspondence specifying the definition of the eligibility of schools to receive Schools Investment Programme funding including the definition of what is deemed a 'new' school.**

The definition for the eligibility of a school to receive School Investment Package (SIP) funding is available on the Ministry of Education website at:

<https://www.education.govt.nz/school/funding-and-financials/funding/school-investment-package/>.

The funding is available for all state schools. Schools that are not eligible to receive funding are:

- new Schools opened since 2015
- schools in leased facilities
- state-integrated schools
- public private partnership (PPP) schools

Schools that were considered for closure were also ineligible for receiving the funding.

As stated in my 8 June response to your previous OIA, the Ministry's definition of a "new" school for the purposes of the SIP was a school that was newly established as a state school in 2015 or later.

The procedure for becoming established as a new school in the network takes place under section 190 of the Education and Training Act 2020. This must happen before a school can officially open for instruction. It is a different process from the construction of school buildings.

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 recently been rebuilt and had facilities upgraded or replaced since 2015 (which are eligible for SIP funding).

Schools that were merged, relocated, rebuilt, or redeveloped were included in the program as usually some original part of the school remained, which would benefit from upgrade work.

I am providing you *File Note: Determining eligible schools for the School Investment Package that have received major redevelopment (including rebuild)*.

You can also find a copy of *Briefing Note: School Investment Package* on our website <https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/R-4-1214185b-BN-School-Investment-Package.pdf>. Of particular interest to your request are paragraphs 30 – 34 on page 5 which outline eligibility and exclusions of SIP.

2. **A copy of any Ministry of Education documentation and correspondence defining guidelines/procedures to be applied regarding the eligibility of New Zealand school's existent prior to 2015, for Schools Investment Programme funding, when rebuilt on a new site.**

For the purposes of determining eligibility the Ministry considered whether it could clearly articulate the rationale for excluding some redevelopments or rebuilds and not others. Our starting point was that all schools were to receive SIP funding (regardless of the scale of the redevelopment) unless there were specific eligibility criteria or reasoning to exclude the School.

I am providing you with the document *Direct funding to schools one pager*, which outlines the eligibility of state schools opened before 2015. The File Note and Briefing Note from question one also contains information regarding eligibility.

3. Please supply documentation and correspondence outlining how the decision was reached to not grant Redcliffs School

There is no specific documentation held on the SIP assessment for Redcliffs School. More than 2,050 schools were reviewed as part of the SIP announcement. To manage this, our regional property staff assessed schools at a regional level, and this was done through verbal conversations with school property advisors. Therefore, we do not hold an assessment of Redcliffs specifically. I am refusing your request for documentation and correspondence under section 18(e) of the Act, as the information requested does not exist.

Schools were assessed for SIP eligibility in November 2019, prior to the December announcement, based on their status at that point in time.

At the time of assessment, Marshland School was operating on its rebuilt site. The rebuilt site had reopened in 2015, and the school has been operating from that site since that time. As the construction of the site was completed by the end of 2015, the school was deemed eligible for SIP funding.

When the SIP assessment occurred, Redcliffs School was temporarily hosted on the Van Asch Education Centre site. At that time, the brand-new facilities for Redcliffs School were in the final stages of construction on their new permanent site. The school moved to the new site in mid-2020, six months after the SIP assessments took place. SIP was a one-off allocation; therefore, allocations were not ongoing and changing of conditions for schools did not mean they were reconsidered for SIP funding.

The Ministry decided not to provide Redcliffs School with SIP funding because significant funding had been and was continuing to be invested into the almost completed new facilities for Redcliffs School on their new site and that it would be inappropriate to provide SIP funding for spending on the Van Asch site that Redcliffs School was only temporarily occupying.

The table below details the schools that were part of the Christchurch Schools Rebuild (CSR) programme that did not receive SIP funding.

Schools in the Christchurch Schools Rebuild programme that did not receive SIP funding

School	Project Type	Date reopened	Additional Explanation
West Rolleston Primary School	New School	Jan 2016	Brand new
Rolleston College	New School PPP ¹		
Haeata Community Campus	New School PPP		
Knights Stream School	New School	Jan 2019	Brand new
Ararira Springs School	New School	Jan 2019	Brand new

¹ Public Private Partnerships <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/property-and-transport/roles/public-private-partnerships/>

School	Project Type	Date reopened	Additional Explanation
Wigram Primary School	New School	Jan 2019	Relocation on a new site – timing
Avonside Girls' High School	New School PPP		
Shirley Boys' High School	New School PPP		
Redcliffs School	Rebuild	June 2020	Relocation on a new site - as on a temporary site

4. **Please supply the names of new build/new site/opened prior to 2015 New Zealand schools which did not receive SIP funding although eligible under the Ministry of Education's definition of eligible schools (there are others in Christchurch I am aware of).**

5. **Please supply the names of new build/new site/opened prior to 2015 New Zealand schools which did receive SIP funding.**

All eligible schools received funding. Any school that was not eligible did not receive funding. The list of eligible schools the received funding is available on our website at <https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/School/Running-a-school/School-finances/MOE-School-Investment-Package-List-of-schools-and-funding-allocation.xlsx>.

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



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