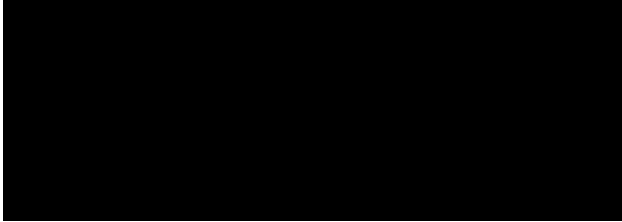




17 August 2021



Tēnā koe [redacted]

Thank you for your email of 6 July 2021 to the Ministry of Education, requesting the following information:

1. *What are roll numbers for this year, compared to last year, and the previous year for primary, intermediate and secondary schools?*
2. *What are the roll projected numbers for next year?*
3. *Also, how many new classrooms will be built this year, compared to last year and the previous year and how many are planned for next year?*
4. *Are roll numbers increasing, or decreasing in particular parts of the country, particular cities or towns and particular suburbs? What are the trends?*
5. *Also, how many international students are there this year, 2020 and 2019 and next year, at primary, intermediate and high schools?*
6. *What revenue drop has there been as a result of fewer international students?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). I have addressed each of your questions separately.

Question 1: What are roll numbers for this year, compared to last year, and the previous year for primary, intermediate and secondary schools?

I have attached the roll numbers for 2019 and 2020 for primary, intermediate, and secondary schools to this response as **Appendix A**. We cannot provide the roll numbers for this year yet, as these figures are currently being verified and finalised for public release in November this year and extracting the numbers outside that scheduled release date would entail substantial research and collation. Accordingly, I am refusing this part of the request under section 18(f) of the Act. Once available, you will be able to find the 2021 figures here:

[School Rolls | Education Counts](#)

Question 2: What are the roll projected numbers for next year?

Please refer to the spreadsheet attached to this response as **Appendix B**, which is the projected roll figures for 2022.

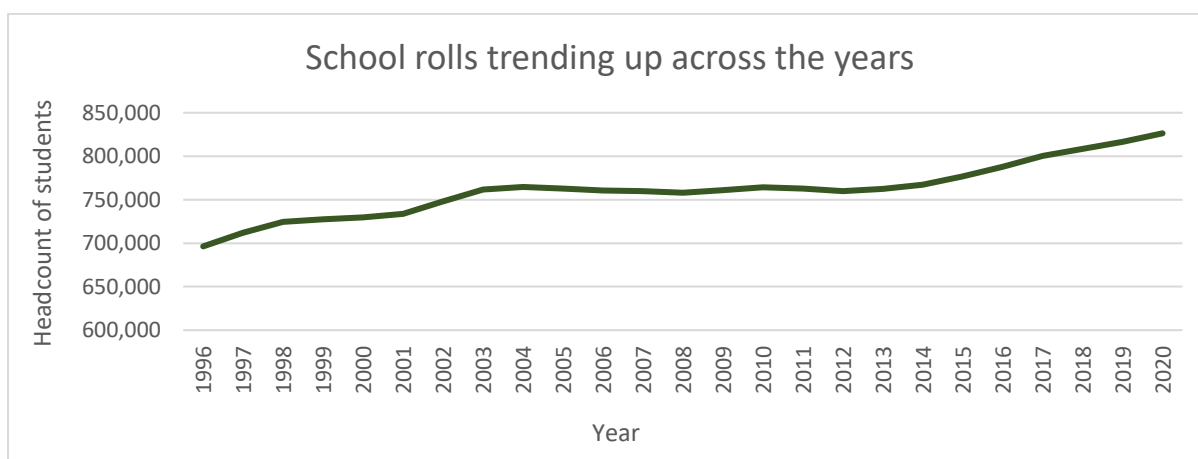
Question 3: Also, how many new classrooms will be built this year, compared to last year and the previous year and how many are planned for next year?

In the just completed 2020/21 financial year, 480 teaching spaces* were built. In the previous 2019/20 financial year, 290 were built and in 2018/9, 347 were built. We plan to deliver 500 teaching spaces in the 2021/22 financial year, but it is likely we may exceed this figure.

Question 4: Are roll numbers increasing, or decreasing in particular parts of the country, particular cities or towns and particular suburbs? What are the trends?

The Ministry carries out statistical collections (roll returns) from New Zealand schools at different times during the year. The data below is based on a head count of students as 1 July each year. This July roll return is the key roll-based measure we report on.

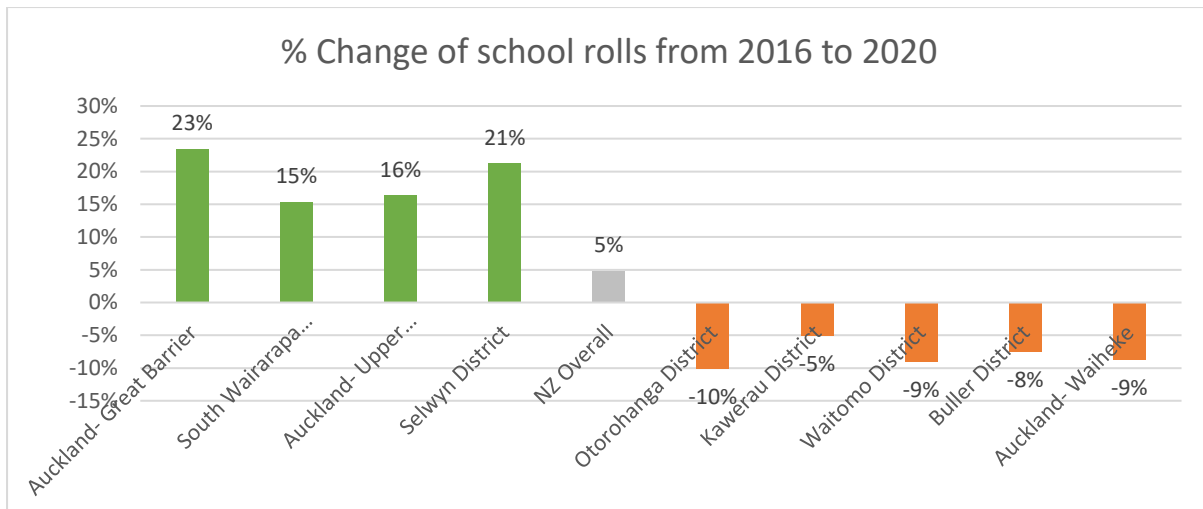
Rolls across New Zealand have generally been trending up since 1996. As of 2020, there were approximately 826,000 enrolled students in New Zealand compared to 817,000 in 2019, which represents a 1.2% increase.



In response to your requests for trends in particular parts of the country, Auckland- Great Barrier (81 to 100 students), South Wairarapa District (1,416 to 1,634 students) and Auckland- Upper Harbour (12,986 to 15,116 students) are some of the areas that have shown the biggest increase in school rolls by percentage in the last five years since 2016. The increase shown by Auckland-Great Barrier is the second largest percentage increase in the country (behind Correspondence schooling), and therefore represents the largest percentage growth for a particular territorial authority.

In contrast areas such as Auckland-Waiheke (1,174 to 1,071 students), Buller District (1,326 to 1,226 students) and Waitomo District (1,724 to 1,567 students) have trended downwards in the same five-year period.

*A classroom is generally defined as a single cell room that is separate from others. A teaching space is either a classroom, or an equivalent in square meterage to a classroom that is in a more flexible format.



Notes:

The data provided is as at 1 July of each year.

The territorial authority area is the where the school is located, not the area that the students are residing at. Territorial authority boundaries are defined by Statistics New Zealand.

Question 5: Also, how many international students are there this year, 2020 and 2019 and next year, at primary, intermediate and high schools?

Please refer to **Appendix A**, which provides the numbers for international fee-paying students for 2019 and 2020. As outlined above, we cannot provide the number of international fee-paying students for 2021, as roll numbers for this year are still being finalised and cannot be made available without substantial research and collation. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act.

The full impact of COVID-19 and the global financial downturn is just beginning to be felt in the international education sector. International students who arrived before the border closures are currently completing their programmes, so enrolment numbers are falling.

With very few new international students in 2020 and 2021, there will be a long-term impact on revenue as much smaller cohorts move through the system, and 2022 is likely to be the lowest point for international student enrolments. Even once international students are able to return to New Zealand, numbers will likely take considerable time to rebuild, due to the typically long recruitment pipeline, fewer education agents and marketing opportunities, and the impact of the global financial downturn on international student finances.

We also cannot provide projected international student numbers for 2022 as the Ministry does not project numbers for international students enrolled in the primary, intermediate and secondary systems. Accordingly, I am refusing this part of the request as well under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist.

Question 6: What revenue drop has there been as a result of fewer international students?

546 Schools recorded international student revenue in 2019, and have returned accounts for 2020. The value of international student revenue in 2019 for these schools was \$179.3m, and for 2020, the figure was \$139.2 million.

It should be noted that 603 Schools in total recorded international student revenue in 2019, so we are still waiting on the results of approximately 57 schools (~9.5%) to get a full idea of the impact on international student revenue as a result of the border closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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



Cathryn Ashley-Jones
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Evidence, Data and Knowledge