

## Ashleigh Watson

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**From:** Enquiries National  
**Sent:** Monday, 2 August 2021 4:20 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** OIA Response - 1267544

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 29 July 2021 requesting information related to the schools who have opted into the school donations scheme.

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

As you may know, the school donations scheme, introduced in 2020, provides decile 1-7 state and state-integrated schools the choice to opt in to the scheme if they agree not to ask parents for donations, apart from donations for overnight camps.

The introduction of the school donations scheme and the Education and Training Act 2020 has not changed the longstanding entitlement of students to a free education. Schools have never been permitted to charge fees for activities that are part of the curriculum, including curriculum-related camps, and this continues to be the case regardless of whether schools opt in to the scheme or not.

Donations are voluntary payments which parents can pay in full, in part or not at all. Students may not be excluded from the curriculum delivery because of a parent's inability or unwillingness to pay a donation towards the cost.

As part of their strategic planning, school boards need to identify curriculum priorities, budget for these and identify sources of income to pay for the costs. Boards are responsible for determining how much they spend delivering each component of the curriculum, including school camps, and they may continue to engage in fundraising activities and accept local sponsorship from the community for any purpose.

The list of schools who have opted in to the school donations scheme is already available online at the following links. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act.

- Schools opted in to the school donations scheme for the 2020 school year:  
<https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Uploads/schools-opted-in-to-donations-scheme-as-at-12-June-2020.xlsx>
- Schools opted in to the school donations scheme for the 2021 school year:  
<https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/School/schools-opted-in-to-donations-scheme-for-2021-as-at-3-march-2021.xlsx>

The donations scheme funding is calculated at \$150 (GST exclusive) per student, based off the July roll return for the year. For most schools, it is also the most favourable roll to use. The 2021 July roll return data has not yet been finalised but will be published later in the year. You can find roll information for schools on Education Counts at the following link: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/school-rolls>.

Additionally, you will be able to use the schools directory to determine which state and state-integrated schools are in deciles 1-7 and therefore eligible for the donations scheme at the following link:  
<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/directories/list-of-nz-schools>.

By using the information in the links provided above, you will be able to access the roll number for each of the schools who have opted in to the donations scheme and calculate the amount that each school has received as part of the programme. Additionally, you will be able to use the list of schools who have opted in to the donations scheme and compare it against the list of state and state-integrated schools in deciles 1-7 to deduce which schools have not opted in to the donations scheme.

Therefore, I am refusing the rest of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information to answer your request is available online.

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](mailto: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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

## Enquiries National Team | Ministry of Education | TW

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We get the job done *Ka oti i a mātou ngā mahi*

We are respectful, we listen, we learn *He rōpū manaaki, he rōpū whakarongo, he rōpū ako mātou*

We back ourselves and others to win *Ka manawanui ki a mātou, me ētahi ake kia wikitoria*

We work together for maximum impact *Ka mahi ngātahi mō te tūkinga nui tonu*

Great results are our bottom line *Ko ngā huanga tino pai ā mātou whāinga mutunga*

