MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

21 October 2021

[redacted]

Tēnā koe [redacted]

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

1. *Copies of workings and meetings to date on the revision of funding and pay parity*

On 24 September 2021, you clarified your request to be instead for the following additional information.

1. *A list of meetings the Minister Chris Hipkins attended where pay parity was discussed, between 12 May 2021 and 15 September 2021, the names and organisations of meeting attendees, and copies of materials/ papers and requests submitted by individuals and parties at these meetings.*

2. *The total estimated cost, and a copy of workings on the cost of enabling access to the higher kindergarten funding rate table to education and care centres who opt in to provide pay parity to all their certificated teaching staff – i.e. pay all their certificated teaching staff at KTCA pay rates (not just the first 5 or 6 salary steps)*

3. *What risk analysis was done of providing funding and pay parity at only the first 5 or 6 KTCA pay steps instead of the same funding rate as kindergartens and full pay parity? A copy of all risk analysis. Also, a copy of proposals presented to the Minister that discussed different options for pay parity and risks.*

4. *On Monday 25th May 2020, [redacted] et with Helen Hurst, Siobhan Murray and Keith Newtown at the Ministry of Education (Wellington) and presented the names of more than 500 services whose service providers had signed an undertaking to pay all their certificated teaching staff at pay parity rates with kindergarten teachers as per the KTCA scale, in return for being funded at kindergarten funding rates. I request information on what actions were taken by the Ministry of Education, its staff, as a result of this meeting and submission. Also, was the Minister of Education advised of this support by service providers? Please provide copies of advice provided*

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

1. A list of meetings the Minister Chris Hipkins attended where pay parity was discussed, between 12 May 2021 and 15 September 2021, the names and organisations

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of meeting attendees, and copies of materials/ papers and requests submitted by individuals and parties at these meetings.

We have identified seven meetings in scope of this request and one document that we are releasing to you in full. We have provided you with a list of the meetings and who they were with in **Appendix A** alongside details of the document in scope.

2. The total estimated cost, and a copy of workings on the cost of enabling access to the higher kindergarten funding rate table to education and care centres who opt in to provide pay parity to all their certificated teaching staff – i.e. pay all their certificated teaching staff at KTCA pay rates (not just the first 5 or 6 salary steps)

We are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

3. What risk analysis was done of providing funding and pay parity at only the first 5 or 6 KTCA pay steps instead of the same funding rate as kindergartens and full pay parity? A copy of all risk analysis. Also, a copy of proposals presented to the Minister that discussed different options for pay parity and risks.

We are refusing the first part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

We are refusing the second part of this request under section 18(d) of the Act as all advice provided on the pay parity initiative, including on risks, has been included in the Budget 2021 information release which is publicly available here:
Budget 2021 Information Release – Education in New Zealand

4. On Monday 25th May 2020, [redacted] met with Helen Hurst, Siobhan Murray and Keith Newtown at the Ministry of Education (Wellington) and presented the names of more than 500 services whose service providers had signed an undertaking to pay all their certificated teaching staff at pay parity rates with kindergarten teachers as per the KTCA scale, in return for being funded at kindergarten funding rates. I request information on what actions were taken by the Ministry of Education, its staff, as a result of this meeting and submission. Also, was the Minister of Education advised of this support by service providers? Please provide copies of advice provided

We are refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the requested information does not exist.

As outlined in the meeting, the kindergarten funding rates are intended to subsidise terms and conditions wider than just the salary scale within the KTCA. These include release time and annual leave provisions. The proposal to provide kindergarten funding rates for the salary scale alone but not the broader terms and conditions was not considered viable.

We have previously responded to similar OIA requests on the same topic and have published our workings. These are publicly available and can be found here:
https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/information-releases/responses-to-official-information-act-requests/

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

John Brooker
Group Manager
Te Puna Kaupapahere | Policy