



17 August 2022

9(2)(a)



Thank you for your email of 26 July 2022 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *Data outlining which schools still have swimming pools as at 30 June 2022 - both operational and non-operational. The data provided should individually list schools, alongside their school ID that is consistent with the Ministry of Education schools directory.*
2. *I would also appreciate any supplementary data including the capital and operating costs of the school pools, as well as their respective physical dimensions please.*

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

The information you have requested is provided to you in the attached **Appendix A**. The data provided is for swimming pools that were classed as 'in use' as at 30 June 2022. Boards are able to make the decision to close pools, temporarily or permanently, without informing the Ministry. This means there may be some variation between the pools actually operating, and the pools recorded in the Ministry's database. Boards may decide to close pools for a range of reasons. Common examples include cost, a lack of use, or the availability of better local alternatives.

Schools that show more than one row do not necessarily have more than one pool. Our data is presented in a length-by-width format, and non-rectangular pools may be displayed in two or more rows.

We are refusing the aspect of part 2 of your request that covers *the capital and operating costs of the school pools* under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and we have no grounds for believing that the information is either held by or connected more closely with the functions of another department or interdepartmental venture or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Schools are self-governing, and expenditure on operational costs and capital comes out of schools' operating budget. Schools have discretion over how their budget is allocated and spent, and this is recorded within their own systems. Schools are not required to report on this expenditure to the Ministry. As a result, there is no combined, centralised dataset for these costs, but you may wish to access and collate this information from the individual schools.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes Official Information Act 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.

OIA: 1292311

National Office, Mātauranga House, 33 Bowen Street, Wellington 6011

PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140. Phone: +64 4 463 8000 Fax: +64 4 463 8001

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Evans', written in a cursive style.

Scott Evans
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Puna Hanganga, Matihiko | Infrastructure and Digital