



10/11/2023

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**OIA: 1318392 – stand downs, suspensions, and exclusions due to weapons**

Thank you for your email of 28 September 2023 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- 1. The number of children stood down, suspended, or excluded from schools around NZ for having a weapon at school in the year to the end of term 3 this year.*
- 2. For each of these, please include: The region the school was in, the weapon, the age of the student, whether they were stood down, suspended, or excluded, and whether any people were injured from the weapons*
- 3. The number of children stood down, suspended, or excluded from schools around NZ for having a weapon at school in 2022 to the end of term 4 2022.*

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

The data you have requested has been provided below as **Appendix One**. Where the total number of students in a field is fewer than five, we have withheld the figure under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned. Where this is the case, these figures have been replaced with x.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

It is important to note that stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions are not measures of student behaviour, but measures of a school's reaction to such behaviours. What one school may choose to suspend for, another may not. The number of these events should not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.

The Ministry does not hold information relating to the type of weapon brought to school, nor if anyone was injured by such weapons. This information may be held by individual schools. I am

therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds for believing that the aggregated information is either held by or more closely related to the functions of another department or organisation subject to the Act.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

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

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).

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Hardacre', with a long horizontal line extending to the left.

Julia Hardacre  
**General Manager, System Delivery**  
**Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui (Operations and Integration)**