



29/01/2024



Tēnā koe



OIA: 1319139 – School transport eligibility for Pōkeno residents to Tuakau College

Thank you for your emails of 6 and 14 November 2023 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting information about school transport eligibility for Pōkeno residents to Tuakau College. Further to our earlier correspondence, this letter comprises the Ministry's response to your request for the following information:

I would like to be provided with the following information as relevant to recent decision-making about school transport eligibility for Pōkeno residents for transport to Tuakau College.

1. *E-mail correspondence from March to November 2023 with regard to service changes (new, change or removal) in the North Waikato (Tuakau, Pōkeno, Mercer) area between the Ministry of Education School Transport Division and:*
 - *Franklin South Transport Network Group / North Waikato School Buses.*
 - *Waikato Regional Council*

I would also like to be provided with information regarding to the Ministry's response to growth in the North Waikato area:

2. *Ministry of Education's projection of roll numbers for schools such as Pōkeno School, Tuakau Primary School and Tuakau College*
3. *Ministry of Education's current capacity planning for the school network in North Waikato, particularly Tuakau, Pōkeno and Mercer for the next ten years including:*
 - *Proposed growth classroom projects*
 - *Proposed new school projects*

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

In response to **part one** of your request, the email correspondence you have requested is attached as **Appendix A**. My decision regarding the release of these documents is outlined in the **Appendix A Document Table** below. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.



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.

In response to **part two** of your request, using Statistics NZ population projections, the projected roll numbers for Pōkeno School, Tuakau School, Te Paina School and Tuakau College are outlined in the table below. A range based on low and high projections has been provided:

School	Projected 2025 roll (low)	Projected 2025 roll (high)
Pōkeno School	644	749
Tuakau School	307	344
Te Paina School	66	118
Tuakau College	864	1,118

These schools are located in the Pukekohe Paerata Tuakau catchment of the Ministry's Auckland Education Growth Plan, which can be found here: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Uploads/290819-NEGP-final-version-May-2019.pdf>

The Ministry monitors growth across the country, and we are aware of the development that is taking place in North Waikato, including Tuakau and Pōkeno. As part of our planning for roll growth and new schools, we monitor the scale and pace of housing developments provided by the public and private sector. This helps us to provide additional classrooms at schools that are experiencing roll growth and, in some areas, identify the need for new schools.

Within the National Education Growth Plan, the Ministry signalled the requirement for an additional site in Pōkeno for a new primary school. We are currently undertaking a site identification and evaluation process, and, once a site has been secured for the planned new primary school, will engage with the community regarding the establishment process.

In response to **part three** of your request, 12 new classrooms are currently in construction at Pōkeno School. There are also short-term roll growth classrooms planned for 2024; two for Pōkeno School and five for Tuakau College. As the Tuakau College roll grows, we will monitor the timing and need for permanent additional teaching spaces there. We are also monitoring school rolls and growth across the wider catchment, to enable us to provide for growth over the next 10 to 20 years.

Further information regarding the National Education Growth Plan can be found here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/our-work/publications/budget-2019/negp/>

Please note, 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 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 'S. Evans', with a large loop at the end.

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

Appendix A Document table

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
1.	1 March 2023	Email: Franklin Transport Network Group - Transport Funding Review	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2.	25 May 2023	Email: Notification of School Transport Funding Review in Tuakau	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3.	25 May 2023	Attachment: Letter to Bruce Cameron - Chairperson Rural-Port Waikato Community Board - school bus route funding review - Tuakau - NB.pdf	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4.	22 June 2023	Email: RE: Franklin South Bus Review	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5.	28 June 2023	Email: RE: Initial outcome - DR funding review	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6.	1 August 2023	Email: RE: Franklin South Bus Network Submission	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
7.	1 August 2023	Attachment: Tuakau Bus Submission	Release in full.
8.	3 August 2023	Email: RE: MoE School Transport contacts	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
9.	22 August 2023	Email: Notification of School Transport Funding Review Outcome - Tuakau	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

#	Date	Title	Decision on release
10.	22 August 2023	Appendix: Outcome Letter to Waikato Regional Council.pdf	Release in full.
11.	30 August 2023	Email: Outcome of DR funding review	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
12.	8 September 2023	Email: RE: Funding School Buses from Pookeno to stop	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
13.	4 August 2023	Attachment: Briefing Note: Franklin Transport Network – directly resourced school transport assistance funding	Release in full
14.		Appendix 1: School Transport Route Design Criteria	Release in full
15.		Appendix 2: School Transport Assistance Eligibility Criteria	Release in full.