




23/01/2024



Tēnā koe 

OIA: 1320260 – Concurrence payments for primary and secondary school principals

Thank you for your email of 12 December 2023 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

Following on from OIA 1316973, I am looking for information regarding concurrence payments for both primary and secondary school teachers.

The previous OIA states that 26 primary principals received a concurrence payment for 'International Student Recruitment'. Please may I have a list of:

- 1. The 26 primary schools whose principals received the concurrence payment for 'International Student Recruitment'.*
- 2. A total sum of concurrence payments paid for that reason to primary principals.*
- 3. The secondary schools whose principals received this payment for 'International Student Recruitment'.*
- 4. A total sum of concurrence payments paid for that reason to secondary principals.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). For the sake of continuity and clarity, the information I am providing to you is reflective date and timeframe of the previous request you reference, which was made on 23 August 2023 and provided data from 2014 to 2025, as concurrence payments are granted for up to three years at a time.

Concurrence payments are up to, and often are, 20% of the U-grade base salary available to school principals. Disclosing the names of the schools would identify the principals receiving payments and benefits as an additional term of their employment, and would constructively disclose the quantum of those payments and benefits. I am therefore refusing **parts one and three** of your request under section 18(a) of the Act, since, by virtue of section 9(2)(a) of the Act, there is good reason to withhold the information requested to protect the privacy of natural persons.



Please note that the previous request you reference was for the number of principals. I can advise that 26 principals from 25 primary schools received a concurrence payment which included an allowance for international student recruitment and management, as one school had a change in principal during the period. Additionally, three of these schools also have a roll of secondary school students. Excluding those three schools, I can advise that 112 principals from 77 secondary schools have received a concurrence payment which included an amount for international student recruitment, as a number of schools had a change in principal during the period.

Regarding **part two** of your request, I can advise that the total sum of payments to primary school principals from 2014 to 2025 is \$2,324,898.55.

Regarding **part four** of your request, I can advise that the total sum of payments from 2014 to 2025 is \$12,763,485.06.

Please note that some schools have received larger payments than others, as their payments, and therefore the figures, do not exclusively relate to the recruitment and management of international students in schools.

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.

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 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.

Nāku noa, nā



Anna Welanyk
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Pou Ohumahi Mātauranga | Education Workforce