



22/02/2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

OIA: 1321240 – Request for data for exclusions and stand downs by behaviour type

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting information. Because of the length of the information you requested, we are setting it out in **Annex 1** at the end of this letter.

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

In response to **questions one**, and **four through to 31** of your request, I am providing data regarding stand downs as **Appendix A Stand downs** and data regarding exclusions as **Appendix B Exclusions**. Please use the below caveats to correctly interpret this information.

- Data is live and subject to change. Data has been extracted on 31/01/2024.
- SSEE stands for Stand-downs, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions. Exclusions and Expulsions are subsets of Suspensions and should not be added to Suspensions.
- For SSEE cases where the year level is unknown, these are unknown at time of reporting.
- It is important to note that SSEE 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.
- Values below 5 have been concealed under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of students involved. Where this is the case, these figures have been replaced with x. For the same reason, no names of students will be released. Some other values have also been masked to ensure that values under 5 cannot be calculated.
- Information presented is the number of students per year, not the number of cases. A student may have been stood down or suspended for each behaviour more than once in a year with changing year level but will only show once in the grand total for that year.
- Students can be stood down or suspended across multiple years.

In response to **question two** of your request I am setting out the number of students who have been stood down for repeated smoking/vaping from 2020 to 2023 in **Table 1**. There were no students excluded for repeated smoking/vaping from 2020 to 2023.



TABLE 1 Number of Students Stood down for repeated smoking/vaping from 2020 to 2023

Year	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of students	53	187	319	449

I am refusing **question three** of your request under section 18(d) as the information is publicly available on the Ministry's Education Counts website and can be found at the following links:

- <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/stand-downs,-suspensions,-exclusions-and-expulsions>
- https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/208396/SSEE-2022-Indicator-Report.pdf
- https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/219136/SSEE-FAQs-2022.pdf

Note that a Briefing Note (1318345 - 2022 Student Engagement Data) that summarises this information has been provided to the Minister and will be soon publicly released.

The following information may also be helpful:

- In the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Act 2020 <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0062/latest/LMS313857.html> you can refer to Section 13 amending Section 7A (Smoking and vaping prohibited at schools and early childhood education and care centres). This piece of legislation exists to promote healthy lifestyles and we refer to it on our website <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/health-safety-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing/why-promote-healthy-lifestyles>
- Education, support and policy change to address vaping is also discussed on our website: <https://gazette.education.govt.nz/articles/education-support-and-policy-change-to-address-vaping/>
- Further note that the Ministry currently has a category called 'Smoking/Vaping' as a recorded behaviour reason for SSEEs. Prior to 23 February 2022, this category was called 'Smoking'. As indicated in the *Stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions Indicator Report*, vaping was also mentioned in SSEEs under "other harmful or dangerous behaviour" and "continual disobedience" categories. This can be found at the following link https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/data/assets/pdf_file/0010/208396/2021-Stand-downs-Suspensions-Exclusions-Expulsions-Indicator-Report_Final.pdf
- You might also be interested in the article that was published in the Wellington.Scoop in September 2023 and is headed *447% increase in school stand-downs for vaping and smoking* <https://wellington.scoop.co.nz/?p=154987>

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 blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean Teddy'.

Sean Teddy
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui (Operations and Integration)

Annex 1 Request for data for exclusions and stand downs by behaviour type

Questions relating to the answers in OIA1319211 (publicly released):

1. *Further to the answer released in OIA1319211, what was:*
 - a. *the percentage of students excluded for vaping/smoking against all enrolled students by region and year group and for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023?*
 - b. *the percentage of students stood down for vaping/smoking against all enrolled students by region and year group and for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023?*
2. *Of the students reported to be excluded or stood down in OIA1319211, how many were the same student, if any (i.e., we wish to find out if there were repeat exclusions/stand-downs)?*
3. *Copies of any briefings, reports, analysis, emails etc, which may explore or explain a marked slowdown in vaping stand-downs, noting, there was a 130% increase from 2020 to 2021, a 26% increase from 2021 to 2022 and a 19% increase from 2022 to 2023?*

Exclusion/stand-down data for other behaviours:

4. *How many students have been excluded because of “physical assault on other students,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
5. *How many students have been stood down because of “physical assault on other students,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
6. *How many students have been excluded because of “Other harmful or dangerous behaviour,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
7. *How many students have been stood down because of “Other harmful or dangerous behaviour,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
8. *How many students have been excluded because of “Continual Disobedience,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*

9. *How many students have been stood down because of "Continual Disobedience," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
10. *How many students have been excluded because of "Verbal assault on staff," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
11. *How many students have been stood down because of "Verbal assault on staff," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
12. *How many students have been excluded because of "Drugs (including substance abuse)," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
13. *How many students have been stood down because of "Drugs (including substance abuse)," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
14. *How many students have been excluded because of "Physical assault on staff," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
15. *How many students have been stood down because of "Physical assault on staff," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
16. *How many students have been excluded because of "Vandalism," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
17. *How many students have been stood down because of "Vandalism," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
18. *How many students have been excluded because of "Verbal assault on other students," broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*

19. *How many students have been stood down because of “Verbal assault on other students,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
20. *How many students have been excluded because of “Theft,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
21. *How many students have been stood down because of “Theft,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
22. *How many students have been excluded because of “Weapons,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
23. *How many students have been stood down because of “Weapons,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
24. *How many students have been excluded because of “Alcohol,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
25. *How many students have been stood down because of “Alcohol,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
26. *How many students have been excluded because of “Sexual misconduct,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
27. *How many students have been stood down because of “Sexual misconduct,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
28. *How many students have been excluded because of “Arson,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
29. *How many students have been stood down because of “Arson,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*
30. *How many students have been excluded because of “Sexual harassment,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*

31. *How many students have been stood down because of “Sexual harassment,” broken down by region, for the years 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, for primary and secondary school age groups, and what percentage was this against all enrolled students in each region?*