



17 July 2020

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 23 June 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- 1. What is the total number of buildings in the Building Improvement Programme that, to date, have had remediation works completed?*
- 2. What is the estimated cost, to date, of all Building Improvement Programme weathertightness remediation work?*

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

In 2011, the Ministry surveyed all risk factors leading to weathertightness issues in school buildings. This identified about 2,400 school buildings at risk with an estimated cost of remediation of between \$1.3 billion and \$1.5 billion.

This informed a comprehensive programme of remediation and prevention strategies, where large and complex property projects are managed by the Ministry. We prioritised work to address the largest and most pressing problems, focusing on known or possible health and safety issues first and foremost. About 600 individual buildings with varying degrees of weathertightness issues remain in the programme and we continue to work through these.

We invest up to \$900 million of capital funding annually on maintaining, improving and expanding the state school property portfolio. The overall cost for weathertightness work is difficult to isolate as in many cases, it is included in a larger scope of budgeted works. Therefore I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information requested does not exist.

Repairs and maintenance issues are an ongoing occurrence in any property portfolio. Schools are encouraged to work alongside their property advisors regarding issues that arise with their facilities. We continue to monitor lower risk buildings as necessary and integrate repairs into planned works and the normal schedule of property repairs and maintenance. This reduces disruptions to school operations and is more efficient.

The Ministry set up Education Infrastructure Service (EIS) in 2013 to support schools in the delivery of school-led works and to directly manage the delivery of large and complex property projects. EIS have established a range of delivery and assurance processes to support the delivery of high quality and durable learning facilities. These include:

- robust design standards and guidance;

- a Design Review Panel to independently review the designs for school development projects;
- a Weathertightness Review Panel which provides technical assistance around weathertightness remediation works;
- pre-qualified project management and contractor panels to drive the performance of our suppliers; and
- a construction observation team to ensure that projects are being built to agreed standards.

We have significantly improved the Ministry's management of weathertightness issues. Details of our weathertightness remediation programme, including all of the latest documents, tools and templates, and a recent Webinar hosted by the Ministry, are publicly available at www.education.govt.nz/school/property-and-transport/suppliers/weathertightness-remediation/.

You may also wish to contact Renelle Gronert, who heads our School Design team, for further information about how we continue to strengthen design standards to ensure new and upgraded school buildings are durable and weathertight. Renelle is available at renelle.gronert@education.govt.nz.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA 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.

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

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service