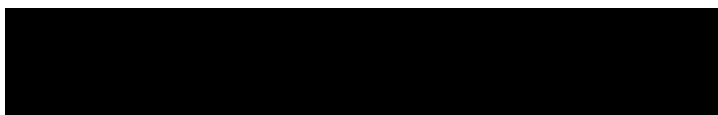




10 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 27 January 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- A copy of any standard form text the Ministry of Education uses to enter contracts, agreements or arrangements with providers of Attendance Services (as referred to here: <https://www.education.govt.nz/school/managing-and-supporting-students/managing-student-attendance/attendance-services/>)

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

There are three documents within scope of your request. These documents provide the framework for Attendance Service contracts and comprise the following:

- Bilateral Outcome Agreement
- Framework terms and conditions
- Attendance Service detailed service description, as appended to Attendance Service contracts

These documents are scheduled to be proactively released on our website as part of a wider release of documents relating to attendance. Therefore, I am refusing the documents under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is or soon to be publicly available.

The Attendance Service is a national service that the Ministry contracts providers to deliver throughout New Zealand. The Attendance Service primarily works with students aged from six up to 16 years old. Attendance Service works with referrals from schools within its catchment region for students who are persistently not attending (unjustified absence) or not enrolled in a school. Unjustified absence (UA) referrals are lodged by the school if a student has been unjustifiably absent. A non-enrolled referral (NEN) is lodged when a school removes the student from the roll if they have not attended school for twenty consecutive days. Their role is to respond to school requests and then work with young people and their whānau to encourage full school engagement.

Although UAs and NEN referrals are integrated in the majority of providers in the country there are some regional variations. Currently two pilot schemes are operating in the South Auckland and Kawerau regions. In Kawerau, Tarawera High School has been contracted to provide the Attendance Service and to encourage a community-wide approach to attendance issues. In South Auckland, the service has been split into two work streams. The first stream, students who are enrolled in school but are unjustifiably absent, is managed by five lead Schools. The

other stream is students who are not enrolled in any school and is managed by a provider who is based in the local community.

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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', with a long, sweeping underline that extends down towards the typed name.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support