



5 March 2021

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 12 November 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *With regard to Stratford High School, for each of the last five years, how many students were enrolled, how many were suspended from school, how many under the age of 16 years were expelled from school?*
2. *With regard to Stratford High School, does the school or the Ministry hold data on the whether or not the expelled students enter any form of formal education or training within a year of their expulsion? If there is such data please provide the summary for the last five years.*
3. *How many students at Stratford High school had counselling provided by the school in each of the last five years (this means by a formally appointed and qualified counsellor)?*
4. *How many students at Stratford High School saw an educational psychologist in each of the last five years?*

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

As mentioned in our letter dated 19 February 2021, I am again confirming that this response is in relation to the data requested in respect of Part 1 and Part 2 of your request above. Parts 3 and 4 of your request were transferred to Stratford High School and you can expect a response from them directly.

**Part One:** *With regard to Stratford High School, for each of the last five years, how many students were enrolled, how many were suspended from school, how many under the age of 16 years were expelled from school?*

Please note that stand-downs and suspensions are measures of schools' reactions to behaviours, as much as they are a measure of the behaviours themselves. What one school may suspend for, another may not, and our data does not capture the severity of an individual action. Expulsions and exclusions are subsets of suspension where an enrolment is terminated.

An expulsion is the termination of a student's enrolment following a suspension meeting. **Expulsions are given to students aged 16 years and over.** There is no requirement that these students stay in the schooling system, so students can decide to enrol at another school or finish school altogether.

An exclusion is the termination of a student's enrolment following a suspension meeting. **Exclusions are given to students under the age of 16,** with the requirement that the student enrolls at another school.

In Table 1 below, we have provided you with the number of suspensions, **exclusions**, and total student roll at Stratford High School between the years of 2015 and 2019. Data for the year of 2020 is not yet available.

**Table 1: Number of suspensions, exclusions, and total student roll at Stratford High School (179) from 2015 - 2019**

Year	Number of suspensions	Number of exclusions*	Total Student Roll
2015	4	2	529
2016	10	1	520
2017	1	0	525
2018	13	3	512
2019	30	2	499

\* = The number of exclusions has been provided instead of expulsions as students under the age of 16 are excluded instead of expelled.

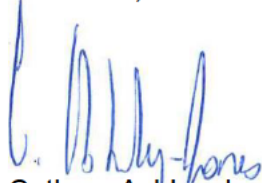
Note that this data is the count of events, not the count of students.

**Part Two:** With regard to Stratford High School, does the school or the Ministry hold data on whether or not the expelled students enter any form of formal education or training within a year of their expulsion? If there is such data, please provide the summary for the last five years.

The Ministry does collect data on the outcomes of an exclusion or expulsion, however because there has only been one expulsion at Stratford High School over the last five years, we are refusing this part of your request under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of this student.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Cathryn Ashley-Jones

**Group Manager**

**Evidence, Data and Knowledge**