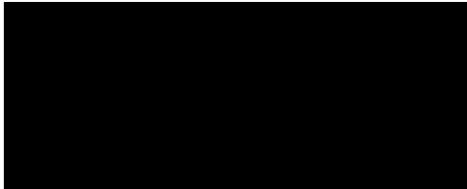




30 July 2020



Thank you for your email of 30 May 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting information relating to kindergartens. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Our responses to your individual questions have been outlined below.

**Questions 1 to 3**

*Please explain why the EC/1-CB form used in the application for a license includes any mention of the word "kindergarten",*

*Please explain why in Box 3 the service type choices include "Kindergarten (Affiliated to a Kindergarten Association)".*

*Please explain why in Box 3 the service type choices include "Kindergarten (Affiliated to a Kindergarten Association)" and do not refer to a "free kindergarten".*

*Please provide complete copies of all documents supporting this decision.*

The EC/1-CB is the application form for new centre-based early learning services. This includes kindergarten, education and care, playcentre, and casual education and care services.

Ministry licensing staff assess the application form for accuracy and completeness, as part of processing an application for a probationary licence. This includes checking that any service provider that selects 'kindergarten' is eligible to be included in this category (i.e. they are operated by a Kindergarten Association).

The EC/1-CB form also collects information in relation to funding. This is why the Box 3 ('Service Type') includes 'kindergarten' as an option. The four types listed in this box are used for record-keeping purposes and also allow the Ministry to apply the correct funding rate to the type of service according to the classifications set by the ECE Funding Handbook (i.e. kindergarten). "Kindergarten" corresponds to the language used in the ECE Funding Handbook.<sup>1</sup>

We are refusing these parts of your request under section 18(e) of the Act for "complete copies of all documents supporting [the decision behind using 'kindergarten'/Box 3 of the EC/1-CB]"

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/funding-and-data/funding-handbooks/ece-funding-handbook/appendix-one/>

as no documents exist relating to any decisions around the selection of boxes and categories on the EC/1 form.

#### **Questions 4A and B**

*For every institution listed as a "Free Kindergarten", form the latest EC/1-CB form completed please provide:*

- *The name of the Service Provider as detailed in Box 1*
- *The ownership type*
- *The services names in Box 3*
- *The service type in Box 3*
- *The date in Box 7.*

*For every institution not listed as a "Free Kindergarten", and if the name of the Service Provider as detailed in Box 1 of the latest EC/1-CB form includes "Kindergarten Association", from that form please provide:*

- *The name of the Service Provider as detailed in Box 1*
- *The service names in Box 3*
- *The service type in Box 3*
- *The date in Box 7.*

*Please provide complete copies of all documents supporting this decision.*

We have interpreted these questions to mean the information that service providers provided on the EC/1-CB form and that Ministry licensing staff entered into licensing database, FIRST.<sup>2</sup>

Please find attached as **Appendices A** and **B** the requested information, which outlines:

- A. all services listed as a Free Kindergarten in FIRST (where 'Free Kindergarten' is the classification listed in the box 'Service Type') and the current information as requested for each service, and
- B. all other centre-based services operated by a Kindergarten Association as the service provider, as it would be listed on the EC/1-CB form.

Information entered in FIRST is subject to change after a probationary licence has been issued. Often this is due to a change of ownership or management (for which the service provider would request via an EC/8-CB Application to Amend a Licensed Early Childhood Centre form) or to update details. Any change to a service's licence status (whether probationary, full, provisional, suspended or cancelled) is also processed in FIRST.

Where available, we have included the date the service was established, and/or licensed as recorded in FIRST. Please note that this may not be available for services licensed prior to 1990. In these instances the date is listed in the Appendices as 'not available'. For services prior to 2008, the date listed may not be the exact date of establishment due to data migration.

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<sup>2</sup> Please note, the large majority of kindergartens were established before the existing licensing regime and legislative framework. For example, one or more kindergartens can be traced back to as early as 1912. The specific documentation establishing each of these kindergartens may no longer exist, as with all licensed services these were transitioned onto new frameworks (i.e. the 1998 and 2008 Regulatory frameworks).

**Questions 4C and D**

*Please confirm if every institution listed as a "Free Kindergarten" is funded at the kindergarten rate. If any are not, which ones are not and why?*

*Please confirm if any institution not listed as a "Free Kindergarten" is funded at the kindergarten rate. For those that are, please provide the service names and the reason why.*

*Please provide complete copies of all documents supporting this decision.*

Only services listed in FIRST, and as attached in **Appendix A**, receive funding at the kindergarten rate. The services listed in **Appendix B** receive funding according to teacher-led, centre-based service rates.

No documents exist supporting this decision. As such we are refusing these parts of the request under section 18(e) of the Act.

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

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**