



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 November 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *What constitutes a mesh block, as defined by the Ministry of Education?*
2. *How many people live in a typical city mesh block? How many children live in a typical city meshblock?*
3. *How often has the Ministry of Education been asked by the Department of Corrections to provide information about meshblocks for offender release?*
4. *How many children are in the meshblock area including Raiha Street, Porirua?*

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

Our answers to your individual questions have been outlined below:

Question one: What constitutes a meshblock, as defined by the Ministry of Education?

We use the Statistics New Zealand definition of a meshblock as per below:

Meshblock is both a geographic unit and a classification. It is the smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is reported by Stats NZ. A meshblock is a defined geographic area, varying in size from part of a city block to large areas of rural land. Meshblocks are contiguous: each meshblock borders on another to form a network covering all of New Zealand, including coasts and inlets. The meshblock classification extends out to New Zealand's 200-mile exclusive economic zone (EEZ).

Further information about Meshblocks is available at the following link:

<http://infoshare.stats.govt.nz/methods/classifications-and-standards/classification-related-stats-standards/meshblock.aspx#gsc.tab=0>

Question two: How many people live in a typical city meshblock? How many children live in a typical city meshblock?

We don't calculate or determine the number of people living in a 'typical city meshblock'. This is calculated by Statistics New Zealand. For further information on please refer to the link above.

Question three: How often has the Ministry of Education been asked by the Department of Corrections to provide information about meshblocks for offender release?

We provide information when requested by Corrections and the NZ Police about the number of children living at or near given addresses, for proposed offender placement that *may* be used to inform their decisions about the possible placement of an offender. This includes the number of children living in the immediate area, and the schools and early learning services nearby.

This information is provided to the Police and Corrections when requested under section 11(e) or (f) of the Privacy Act 1993 and sometimes section 43 of the Child Protection (Child Sex Offender Government Agency Registration) Act 2016. 57 requests from Corrections and NZ Police of this nature were responded to from 1 January 2019 to 4 November 2020.

Question four: How many children are in the meshblock area including Raiha Street, Porirua?

This street sits across six meshblocks. Comprehensive meshblock population data including this street is available from stats NZ [here](#) and [here](#).

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



Alex Brunt
Acting Deputy Secretary
Evidence Data and Knowledge