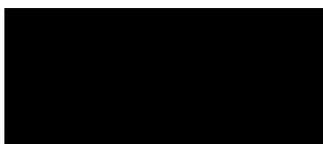




23 MAR 2020



Dear 

Thank you for your email of 11 February 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *How many schools in New Zealand have closed their pools due to maintenance costs in 2017, 2018, 2019?*
2. *The names of these schools, their decile and whether they are public or private.*
3. *Of the new schools opened in 2017, 2018, 2019 – how many installed pools?*
4. *How much funding was allocated, by region, to schools for pool maintenance in 2017, 2018, 2019?*
5. *How many schools requested assistance from the Ministry to keep their pools open in 2017, 2018, 2019?*

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

Our responses to your questions have been answered individually below:

1. How many schools in New Zealand have closed their pools due to maintenance costs in 2017, 2018, 2019?

According to our database, 23 state schools closed their pools between 2017 and 2019. No state integrated schools closed pools during this time period.

The Ministry does not hold information on the property of private schools. As such, insofar as your request relates to private schools that may have closed pools, it has been refused under section 18(g) of the Act.

The Ministry does not hold information on the reasons for pool closures. The decision to close a school pool is made by Boards of Trustees. Boards may choose to close a pool for a range of reasons including a lack of use, the availability of better local alternatives, or cost.

As such, your request for information on how many schools have closed *due to maintenance costs* has been refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

2. The names of these schools, their decile and whether they are public or private.

Please find the names and decile ratings of state schools that have closed pools between 2017 and 2019, according to our database, attached as **Appendix One**.

Please note:

- Boards are able to close pools, temporarily or permanently, without informing the Ministry. This means there may be some variation between the pools actually closed, and the pool closures recorded in the Ministry's database.
- Schools that have closed pools may still be operating a pool. This is because some schools have multiple pools, have built a new pool after closing one, or have closed a pool upon relocation and moved to a site with another pool. As such, the list provided shows only that a school has closed a pool - not necessarily that the school no longer has a pool onsite.
- The schools listed are open. Our data shows that in the same time period, an additional 18 schools 'closed' pools because the schools themselves closed.

3. Of the new schools opened in 2017, 2018, 2019 – how many installed pools?

No new state or state integrated schools that opened in 2017, 2018 or 2019 had pools installed.

4. How much funding was allocated, by region, to schools for pool maintenance in 2017, 2018, 2019?

A regional breakdown of funding allocated to schools for pool maintenance is not possible to collate, as funding is not allocated *specifically* for pool maintenance. As such, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information is not held by the Ministry.

The Ministry provides all schools with operational funding, including the Property Maintenance Grant (PMG), which can be used to run and maintain pools to a safe standard. Schools also receive Five Year Agreement (5YA) funding for capital upgrades, which can be used on essential infrastructure of existing pools (i.e. a new pump).

A small portion of the PMG is calculated based on the cubic metre capacity of a school's pool. However, this is just one component of the PMG, and the PMG is just one component of operational funding.

Schools have discretion over the use of operational funding, and the use of 5YA funding is overseen but not determined by the Ministry.

5. How many schools requested assistance from the Ministry to keep their pools open in 2017, 2018, 2019?

The Ministry does not record in one central place schools that have requested assistance to keep pools open. This is because schools could seek help from the Ministry through a number

of avenues, such as through Property Advisors, regional offices or the national office, by formal or informal communications.

As such, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

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

Appendix One : Schools that have closed pools (2017-2019)

MoE Region	School Name	Authority	Decile
<i>Northern</i>	Freemans Bay School	State	6
	Mt Albert School	State	8
	Otahuhu School	State	1
	Pukekohe High School	State	6
	Western Heights School (Auckland)	State	4
<i>Central North</i>	Cobham School	State	1
	Richmond School (Napier)	State	1
	Te Wharekura o Maniapoto	State	3
<i>Central South</i>	Kahurangi School	State	3
	Paraparaumu School	State	5
	Ramanui School	State	2
	Rutherford Junior High School	State	1
	Titahi Bay North School	State	2
<i>Southern</i>	Ashburton College	State	6
	Beckenham Te Kura o Pūroto	State	8
	Granity School	State	3
	Greymouth High School	State	4
	Lake Rotoiti School	State	8
	Prebbleton School	State	10
	South Hornby School	State	4
	Spring Creek School	State	5
	Timaru South School	State	2
	Waiau School	State	8

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

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	Te Wharekura o Maniapoto	State	3
<i>Central South</i>	Kahurangi School	State	3
	Paraparaumu School	State	5
	Ramanui School	State	2
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