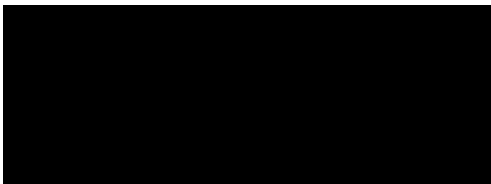





19 March 2020



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

1. *Can you please provide a breakdown of where the \$32 million dollars, announced in last year's post-Budget for kōhanga reo, has gone – or will go?*
2. *How many full-time kōhanga reo staff are there in New Zealand?*
3. *How many of them have had pay increases as a result of the \$32 million announcement?*
4. *How many voluntary kōhanga reo staff are there in New Zealand?*
5. *How many of them are now being paid as a result of the \$32 million announcement?*
6. *How many kōhanga reo have had repairs to their buildings following the announcement?*

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

Set out below are the responses to the parts of your request.

Part 1

The funding referred to in your request was announced in Budget 2019 and had the following components:

1. \$21.4 million intended to address staff costs
2. \$2.5 million for improvements to the Trust's and kōhanga reo ICT capacity and capability
3. \$8.6 million for costs associated with the state of some kōhanga buildings.

Component 1

The Government, through the Ministry of Education, subsidises children's attendance at licensed early learning services, including ngā kōhanga reo. The Ministry subsidy is capped at six hours per child per day, up to a maximum of 30 hours per child per week.

The \$21.4 million is being provided through an increase in kōhanga funding rates of \$2.31 per Funded Child Hour (FCH) (including GST, or \$2.01 per FCH excluding GST) from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. A comparison of the previous and current funding rates is below.

Table 1: Previous and current kōhanga reo funding rates (includes GST)

\$ per Funded Child Hour	Rates from 1 January 2019			Rates from 1 July 2019		
	Under 2	2 and over	20 Hours ECE	Under 2	2 and over	20 Hours ECE
Quality	\$8.98	\$4.51	\$8.43	\$11.29	\$6.82	\$10.74
Standard	\$7.86	\$3.96	\$7.95	\$10.17	\$6.27	\$10.26

Kōhanga funding rates also increased on 1 January 2020 as a result of the 1.8% inflation adjustment applied to early learning funding rates. The data in the following tables excludes this inflation adjustment.

Kōhanga reo are funded in arrears every four months. The funding payments are made on 1 March, 1 July and 1 November. The table below outlines the additional funding that has been paid, by region, for kōhanga reo. This covers the period 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2019 and reflects funding that has been paid out.

Table 2: Additional funding to kōhanga by region, 1 July to 30 September 2019 (excludes GST)

Region	Number of kōhanga	Total Funded Child Hours	Additional expenditure
Northland Region	41	241,740	\$485,897
Auckland Region	48	401,394	\$806,802
Waikato Region	61	383,562	\$770,960
Bay of Plenty Region	79	540,858	\$1,087,125
Gisborne Region	24	161,634	\$324,884
Hawke's Bay Region	57	368,760	\$741,208
Taranaki Region	16	141,690	\$284,797
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	47	356,202	\$715,966
Wellington Region	34	302,586	\$608,198
Nelson-Marlborough-Tasman	5	29,868	\$60,035
Canterbury & Chatham Islands	7	50,910	\$102,329
Otago Region	3	23,262	\$46,757
Southland Region	8	53,574	\$107,684
Total	430	3,056,040	\$6,142,640

Information on the forecast expenditure from 1 October 2019 to 30 June 2020 is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. I have identified no public interest considerations sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold this information at this time.

Components 2 and 3

\$0.84 million has so far been provided to the Trust to remediate urgent property needs identified in 28 kōhanga reo. This funding is being used to fix potential health and safety issues identified through assessment by an independent third party. We are in the process of working with the Trust to pass on the remainder of the funding.

For the third component, a further \$2.497 million has been allocated to the Trust to improve ICT capacity across the Trust and wider kōhanga reo network. The funding is enabling a programme of work in a range of areas, including improving network security and integration, organisational reporting and user applications.

Parts 2 to 6

As per our previous email informing you that this request is being extended, the information relating to Parts 2 to 6 of your request is not held by the Ministry. Accordingly, we must refuse these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is not held by the Ministry and we have no reason to believe that any one agency holds all of this information.

Please note the Ministry now proactively publishes responses under the Act 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. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz.

If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy