



- 1 NOV 2019

Antony Andrews  
[fyi-request-11349-3ed08cab@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-11349-3ed08cab@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Antony

Thank you for your email of 2 October 2019 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- “any reports or documents that is currently held my [sic] MoE which relates to school closures or consolidation. For example:
  1. Reports that recommends school consolidations or assessing the benefits of closing small or rural schools in various parts of New Zealand or documents that identifies economies of scale or efficiency gain with such closures.
  2. List of schools that has been closed or merged since 2003.
  3. Copy of document 'network review' which was published in early 2000s.”

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

Your request for any reports or documents which relates to or recommends school consolidation or closure, and the first point of your request which relates to small or rural schools, are too broad to respond to. As such we are refusing these parts of your request under section 18(f) of the Act as it would require substantial collation and research to identify and capture everything in scope.

In response to your second point, we are releasing to you the list of schools that have been closed or merged since 2003 in a spreadsheet attached as **Appendix 1** to this response. Although this list indicates that many schools have merged or closed in this time, in many situations the reorganisation of schooling in an area (e.g. the network reviews) involves both the closure of schools and the establishment of new schools. Please note, this list also includes the schools that closed as part of the removal of the charter school model. As you may know, new designated character or state integrated schools were established in their place.

In response to your third point, we are releasing to you *Building Sustainable Schooling Networks: The Implementation Phase for Network Reviews Final Draft Stage 4* in full, as **Appendix 2** to this response.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C Child', written in a cursive style.

Coralanne Child  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**