



1/03/2024

Erika Whittome

fyi-request-25438-099e3223@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Erika

OIA: 1321221 – Finders Fee for hiring overseas teachers.

Thank you for your email of 18 January 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

In 2023 in your bulletins, the Ministry was offering a \$5k finders fee for hiring overseas teachers.

- 1. How many overseas teachers in 2023 did you hire through such a financial incentive program?*
- 2. What was the total cost of these incentives for 2023?*
- 3. What is the allocated budget for such incentives in 2024?*
- 4. How many teachers have you hired via agencies in 2023 eg Vivid Teachers?*
- 5. What was the cost to you for using such agencies in 2023?*
- 6. How many graduates were there from New Zealand teachers colleges for the year 2023?*
- 7. How many students dropped out of the teachers colleges due to mandates in 2022?*
- 8. What was the total enrolment number in NZ teachers colleges at the start of 2021 and at the start of 2022?*

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

The Overseas Finders Fee of \$3,450 is paid to schools and early learning centres who employ teachers to assist with the recruitment costs for overseas teachers.

Regarding **questions one to three** of your request, there were 354 Overseas Finders Fees paid to schools or early learning centres in Financial Year (FY) 2023. The total cost for the Overseas



Finders Fee in FY 2023 was \$1.22m, and the budget allocated for the Overseas Finders Fee for FY 2024 was \$4.38m.

Schools and early learning centres employ teachers, not the Ministry of Education, and they are able to independently determine how they undertake recruitment, which may or may not involve utilising a recruitment agency.

The Ministry does not use agencies of any sort to recruit teachers, as schools and early learning centres conduct their own recruitment. Therefore, the answer to **questions four and five** of your request is 0.

With regard to **question six** of your request, the number of graduates from New Zealand Initial Teacher Education for the year 2023 will be available around May 2024 on the Education Counts website. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(f) of the Act, as the making this information available outside of this scheduled release date would impose a significant administrative burden on the Ministry amounting to substantial collation and research. You can access the page on which this information will be published by using the following link:
<https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/initial-teacher-education-statistics>.

The Ministry does not hold statistics pertaining to the number of students that have dropped out of the Initial Teacher Education due to mandates in 2022. I am therefore refusing **question seven** of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the aggregate information requested is not held by the Ministry, and I have no grounds for believing that the information is held by or connected more closely with the functions of another agency subject to the Act.

Regarding **question eight**, the figures pertaining to the total enrolment numbers in New Zealand Initial Teacher Education for the start of 2021 and 2022 are publicly available on the Education Counts website, using the same provided above in response to **question six** of your request. I am therefore also refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information requested is publicly available.

Please note, 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 my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Anna Welanyk
Hautū | Deputy Secretary
Te Pou Ohumahi Mātauranga | Education Workforce