



Charter School Agency

9/09/2024

Matahiwi

fyi-request-28067-0962bf19@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Matahiwi

OIA: 1334287 – Charter school applications in Whānganui region

Thank you for your email of 15 August 2024 to the Charter Schools Agency (the CSA) requesting the following information:

- 1. Please provide the number of primary, composite and/or intermediate schools in the Whanganui district that have applied to convert to charter schools.*
- 2. Please provide the number of applications to set up new primary, composite and/or intermediate charter schools in the Whanganui district*

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

Confidentiality for applicants is imperative to the independence and credibility of the charter school selection process at this early stage. While 78 applications were received, only a limited number will progress to Stage Two of the selection process.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(a) of the Act, since, by virtue of section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, there is good reason to withhold the information to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Once the selection process is complete and decisions have been made at the end of Stage Two, the CSA will consider proactively releasing this information. We expect that this will be in October this year. I consider that the public interest will be met by the proactive release of information in due course. In addition, applicants that are successful in progressing to Stage Two of the selection process will be required to consult their community.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jane Lee', written in a cursive style.

Jane Lee
Chief Executive
Charter Schools Agency