



26 November 2024

Ref: 2024013

Nina Noval

By email: fyi-request-28976-4dd9116f@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Nina

Thank you for your Official Information Act (OIA) request received on 4 November 2024. You requested:

The [Left Behind: How do we get our chronically absent students back to school?] report notes that chronically absent students are:

1. *“Four times as likely to have a recent history of offending,” with 4 percent of chronically absent students having such a history, compared to less than 1 percent of all students. Could you clarify how this link was established? Specifically:*
 - *What data from schools was used to link students to their offending history?*
 - *Which agency provided the “history of offending” information, and what specific data points did it contain?*
 - *How were individual students identified and matched across datasets for attendance and offending history?*
 - *What measures were in place to ensure students’ privacy in this data linkage?*
 - *Under what authority did the ERO access this data?*
2. *“Four times as likely to live in social housing,” with 12 percent of chronically absent students living in social housing, compared to 3 percent of all students. Could you explain how this data link was determined? Specifically:*
 - *What data was used to connect attendance information to students’ social housing status?*
 - *Which agencies were involved in sharing this information?*
 - *What specific data about social housing was provided to ERO?*
3. *“At age 23, young adults who were chronically absent cost \$4,000 more than other young people,” with particular costs noted in corrections, hospital admissions, and receiving benefits. Could you specify:*
 - *What data was used to link student attendance information with hospital admissions, corrections, and benefit receipt data?*
 - *What specific data points were shared to determine the cost differences?*
 - *Which agencies were involved, and what data was exchanged?*
 - *How was privacy maintained in the data-sharing process for these individuals?*
 - *Additionally, were students or their caregivers informed and asked to provide consent before any of this data was shared across agencies for the purposes of this report?*

We have decided to extend the due date of your request under section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA because the consultations necessary to make a decision on the request are such that a proper response to the request cannot reasonably be made within the original time limit.

We will respond to you no later than 24 December 2024.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact Kirsty Anderson at kirsty.anderson@sia.govt.nz.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "K. Anderson".

Manager of the Office of the Chief Executive