



19/02/2025

Marilyn Hunt

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Tēnā koe Marilyn

OIA: 1339305 – Out of Hours Music and Arts programme allocation of hours

Thank you for your email of 4 November 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information:

- 1. Correspondence between the Ministry of Education Wellington Regional office and National Office between January 2021 and October 2024 regarding the correct and incorrect application of policy in relation to what the total hours allocation covers for Out of Hours Music Centres. This will include discussion about when it was realised that Wellington and other regions were calculating administration hours as separate to tutor hours, instead of including both types of hours as part of the total allocation.*
- 2. Correspondence and documents from the same time period discussing how any overspend in relation to code 11240 had been accounted for over the past 10 years.*
- 3. A copy of the in-depth analysis of the programme budget and wage spend, which revealed many schools were claiming more hours than they had been allocated.*
- 4. Correspondence and documents relating to the recent decision to inform Wellington Region host schools that total hours include both tutor and administration hours, and the approach to take.*
- 5. Any briefings to the Minister regarding the above, and the Minister's responses.*

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

There was a historical misunderstanding of allocating hours to Out of Hours Music and Arts (OOHMA) tutors and all other OOHMA staff, where some schools include only tutors. This was brought to the Ministry's attention by a regional manager, who discovered the overspend in one of the schools. This prompted the Ministry to look at the processes of allocating hours nationally.

The Ministry now has a national budget monitoring process in place, and all schools have been informed that all OOHMA staff need to be included in the allocation of hours.

In response to **part one** of your request, I am releasing six email threads in part as **Appendix A**. Please note, some out of scope information has been removed and information has been withheld from these documents under the following sections of the Act:

- 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons
- 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Ministers of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty.

In response to **part two** of your request, I am releasing one document in full and two email threads in part as **Appendix B**, with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as above.

In response to **part three** of your request, I am releasing five analyses of annual overspend from 2019 to 2023 in part, attached as **Appendix C**. Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, 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.

Please refer to the attached **Appendix D** for the information the Ministry holds in scope of **part four** of your request. There are six documents in scope, which have been released to you in part, with some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(ba)(ii) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as above. I am refusing to release one Programme Guide under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available on the Ministry website. A link is provided in the **Appendix D Document Table** below.

Please refer to the respective document tables below for an overview of the documents in scope of your request, along with my decision on their release.

One briefing note was provided to the Minister of Education on this matter. I am refusing **part five** of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available at:

https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-12/1325158%20OOHMA%20budget%20issues%20and%20programme_Redacted.pdf?VersionId=ITixo0C.Vak7S8kAMMcU6dTjf0m3qf5k.

Regarding the Minister of Education's response to this advice, this is captured within handwritten notes in the published briefing. These notes have been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, as above. Information has also been withheld from the published version of this document under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, as above.

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.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Ramirez', with a small blue dot above the 'i'.

Stephanie Ramirez
General Manager, Network and Regulatory
Te Mahau | Te Pae Aronui (Operations and Integration)

Appendix A Document Table

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
1	16 Nov 2021	Withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.	Angus Woodhams	FW: Out of Hours Music Scheme	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
2	16 Nov 2021	Withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.	Angus Woodhams	FW: Out of Hours Music Scheme	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Some information has been redacted as out of scope.
3	17 Nov 2021	Angus Woodhams	Rebecca Meinders-Sykes	RE: OOHMA	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4	17 Nov 2021	Angus Woodhams	Madisen Su'A	RE: Out of Hours Music and Arts Scheme	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
5	8 Nov 2022	Angus Woodhams	Nicole Williams, Edward Gilbertons	RE: OOHMA funding/allocation mechanism	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6	12 Jun 2023	Schools AK Contracting	Employment Relations	FW: OOHMA – Coordinator Hours Inclusive & Application Increase. Herenga Waka	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act. Some information has been redacted as out of scope.

Appendix B Document Table

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
1	12 Jan 2022	Enid Liew	Angus Woodhams; Edward Gilbertson; Jared Hutchins; name withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.	RE: OOHMA wages budget	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
2	25 May 2023	Tejal Patel	Angus Woodhams; Morag Allan; Ken Maher; Nicole Williams; Belen Ortega; Mark Swinbank	RE: (2 nd RESPONSE) RE: Bargaining OOHMA/ ACE request	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3		Suggested OOHMA comms			Release in full

Appendix C Document Table

#	Date	Subject	Decision on release
1	2019	OOHMA Overspend Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act.
2	2020	OOHMA Overspend Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act.
3	2021	OOHMA Overspend Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act.
4	2022	OOHMA Overspend Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act.
5	2023	OOHMA Overspend Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act.

Appendix D Document Table

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
1	26 Jan 2022	Angus Woodhams	Mata Gilbert	RE: Second complaint letter	Release in part. Information has been withheld under

				about the reduction	sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
2	27 Apr 2022	Angus Woodhams	Mata Gilbert	RE: OOHMA Service Guide	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
3	16 Sep 2022	Angus Woodhams	Mata Gilbert	RE: [9(2)(ba)(ii)] hours for 2023	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act. Some information has been redacted as out of scope.
4	6 Sep 2023	Angus Woodhams	Ministry of Education officials	OOHMA Guidance	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4a	Attachment: Out of Music and Art Programme Guide.pdf				Refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available at the following link: https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-08/Out-of-Hours-Music-and-Art-Programme-Guide.pdf?VersionId=ZcMyUGaAPgsaD65C5_S9VWSYY93migYT
5	27 Aug 2024	Angus Woodhams	Ministry officials	RE: OOHMA school overspends	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act.
6	4 Sep 2024	Angus Woodhams	Ministry officials		Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) of the Act.