



Charter School Agency

19/02/2025

John Wilson
fyi-request-29349-cd21db45@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe John

OIA: 1340666 – Communication between Charter School Agency and Associate Minister of Education concerning Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki

Thank you for your email of 27 November 2024 to the Charter School Agency (the CSA) requesting the following information:

I am writing to request the following information regarding the recent PR announcement by the ACT Party, as reproduced by the Stuff website "First new charter school given green light, 2025 opening", concerning the approval of "Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki" as one of the first charter schools:

- 1. All communications (including emails, letters, meeting records, etc.) between David Seymour or his office and representatives of the Charter School Agency concerning Mastery Schools New Zealand—Arapaki, including communications related to any press release.*
- 2. A copy of any application submitted by Mastery Schools Australia or Mastery Schools New Zealand to the Charter School Agency for consideration as a charter school provider.*
- 3. All correspondence (including emails, letters, or other written communication) between the Charter School Agency and representatives of Mastery Schools New Zealand or Mastery Schools Australia.*
- 4. A copy of any assessment report related to the application by Mastery Schools New Zealand or Mastery Schools Australia, including any evaluations, recommendations, or reviews conducted by the Charter School Agency or other involved bodies.*
- 5. A breakdown of the total cost associated with the establishment of Mastery Schools New Zealand – Arapaki*

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

Charter School Agency, 1 The Terrace, Mezzanine floor, Wellington 6011
PO Box 1666, Wellington 6140 Phone: +64 4 463 8000 Fax: +64 4 463 8001

charterschools.govt.nz

On 16 January 2025, we responded to **parts two to five** of your request, and the timeframe for a response to **part one** of your request was extended under section 15A(1)(b) of the Act.

The information in scope of **part one** of your request is set out in the document tables below and attached as **Appendices A and B**.

Please note, some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.

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.

Where information has now been published, these documents have been refused under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

Information which is specific to other charter schools has also been removed as out of scope of your request.

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 'HMC', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hannah Cameron
Head of Applications and Contracts
Charter School Agency

Appendix A Document table

#	Date	METIS #	Title	Decision on release
1	22 Nov 2024	1340248	Briefing: Timelines and Announcements for New Charter Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. Out of scope information removed.
1A	Annex 1: Draft media release for the announcement of the inaugural Charter school – Mastery School New Zealand - Arapaki			Refer to document 6A, Appendix B. Final version released in part.
2	26 Nov 2024	1340445	Education Report: Gazette Notices for the Establishment of Charter Schools	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2A	Annex 1: Gazette notices notifying the establishment of charter schools to open in February 2025			Refused. Information has been refused under section 18(d) of the Act. Information is publicly available at the following link: Gazette - Search results

Appendix B Document table

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
1	25 Nov 2024	CSA official	Office of Hon David Seymour	RE: Further background on Master Schools New Zealand due 1pm today	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
1A	20241125 – Mastery Schools NZ – Arapaki – opening run sheet				Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2	20 - 25 Nov 2024	CSA official	Office of Hon David Seymour	RE: Briefing re Charter School contracts and upcoming announcements	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
2A	20241125 – Mastery Schools NZ – Arapaki – opening run sheet				Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.

3	25 Nov 2024	Office of Hon David Seymour	Charter School Agency	RE: Further background on Master Schools New Zealand due 1pm today	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
4	25 Nov 2024	Office of Hon David Seymour	CSA official	RE: Wednesday announcement	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5	26 Nov 2024	CSA official	Office of Hon David Seymour	RE: PR for tomorrow	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
5A	20241126 - FINAL - CSA Media Release - first charter school announced - diversity is key				Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6	26 Nov 2024	CSA official	Office of Hon David Seymour	RE: PR for tomorrow	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
6A	FINAL Mastery Schools New Zealand Arapaki				Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
7	27 Nov 2024	Erica Doust	Office of Hon David Seymour	RE: Diary - Tipene & Busy	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act.
7A	Charter Schools Daily Contracting Status Report				Release in part. Out of scope information removed.