

Office of Hon Erica Stanford

Minister of Education
Minister of Immigration
Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response
to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in
State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions



5 May 2026

ESOIA936

Amy
fyi-request-34335-b8cc8d3d@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Amy,

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request, transferred to my office on 7 April 2026, in which you requested the following information:

- 1. The total number of individuals who have been blocked from the official social media accounts operated by the Minister of Education and the Associate Minister(s) of Education from September 2023 to May 2026.*
- 2. For each minister, please provide the number of blocked accounts per platform (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, X/Twitter, TikTok, etc.).*
- 3. The date range during which these blocks were applied, if recorded.*
- 4. Any policies, guidelines, or internal criteria used by the Minister or their office when deciding to block individuals on official ministerial social media channels.*

I have considered your request under the Act.

In response to **parts one and two** of your request, social media platforms do not provide a total number of blocked individuals. I have been operating my social media pages since 2017, when I became a National Party candidate. Many of the profiles would have been blocked from before I became a Minister, and I therefore do not have Ministerial responsibility for those.

Furthermore, collating a list of all profiles blocked from my social media pages would require manually counting each profile. Manual collation would cause a significant impact on the ability of my staff to perform their core roles, which is not in the public interest.

I am therefore refusing these parts of your request under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held in my capacity as a Minister, and section 18(f) of the Act, as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

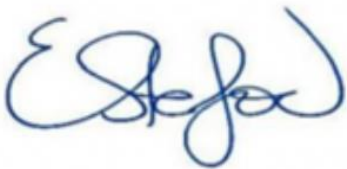
In response to **part three** of your request, the date range during which blocks were applied is not recorded. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist.

In response to **part four** of your request, my office does not have specific processes or policies for deciding to block individuals. I am therefore refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) as the information requested does not exist.

While I do reserve the right, along with my staff to moderate my social media profiles, my social media is not the primary channel for announcing Government business. The primary channel for Government business is the Beehive website, on which my press releases, speeches, and other content is uploaded. Member of the public are able to send concerns, enquiries, and general correspondence directly to my office.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Stanford', written in a cursive style.

Hon Erica Stanford
Minister of Education