



31 AUG 2018

Luke Chandler  
fyi-request-8410-0146ff50@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Luke

Thank you for your email of 1 August 2018 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *What schools currently do not utilise all their class rooms?*
- *If the Ministry would reduce class sizes, what cost would there be to construct additional class rooms?*
- *What costings does the ministry have for smaller class sizes?*
- *For definition: class room means a room in a primary school that would ordinarily be used to teach/as a learning place. This includes pre fabs.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act (the Act). In response to your first question, the Ministry does not monitor schools' use of individual classrooms. Therefore, I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, on the grounds that the information does not exist.

There is information publically available which schools have classroom space above and below their entitlement. You can find this information at the following link: <https://property.education.govt.nz/spg/>. Schools are allowed to have 4 surplus teaching spaces before they must create a rationalisation plan.

In response to your second question, the cost of constructing additional learning spaces varies depending on what is required, how many spaces are required and where they are being added. Class size is a decision made by the school. The Ministry's construction rate is around \$3,350 per square metre. This information (and more contextual detail) is available at the following link: [www.education.govt.nz/school/property/state-schools/funding/new-teaching-space-funding/construction-rates/](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/property/state-schools/funding/new-teaching-space-funding/construction-rates/). I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

In response to your third question, we have not specifically costed smaller class sizes. I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(e) of the Act, on the grounds that the information does not exist. The Ministry allocates teacher funding to schools. Individual schools are able to decide the actual numbers of students per class they are able to achieve with this funding, as long as the national curriculum is delivered and contractual obligations to staff are met. You can find out more at the following link: [www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/resourcing/school-staffing/entitlement-staffing/curriculum-staffing/](http://www.education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/resourcing/school-staffing/entitlement-staffing/curriculum-staffing/).

OIA: 1142934

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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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon  
**Head of Education Infrastructure Service**