



22 April 2020

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Tēnā koe Tom

School Development: Location and Scale Planning

Thank you for email of 28 March 2020 to the Ministry of Education, requesting information about the location and scale planning of New Zealand schools. Specifically you requested information on:

- *Which timetabling algorithm(s) is/are utilised to align pupil demographics within the school's catchment area with the school curriculum and teachers subject teaching qualification(s) in order to identify the appropriate mix of general classrooms and specialist class rooms (e.g science) to optimise class room utilisation and optimise school size?; and*
- *If the MoE does not adopt the utilisation of timetabling algorithms to achieve the above outcomes how does MoE accurately align and optimise school scale and classroom configuration and provision?*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982, however as there are no documents that fall within the scope of this request, we have provided the following information in answer to your questions.

We do not use timetabling algorithms when assessing the future growth of a catchment area, or the predicted number of teaching spaces that will be required. We forecast student demand and distribution in catchments by comparing the forecast (demand) with the existing space available in schools (supply), including approved new roll growth space, to identify the potential requirement for additional student places.

Schools themselves are responsible for deciding timetabling, class sizes and subject offerings. Parents and students are also involved and are often able to decide which type of schools, classes and subjects they prefer. To accommodate this flexibility, we constantly work with schools to best adapt their buildings and teaching spaces to their evolving curriculum offerings and the needs of their students.

While we will never be able to accurately align and consistently optimise our assets to the demands of any given day, we work to ensure equity across our portfolio and continually seek to identify and address new opportunities as they emerge.

Thank you again for your request. Under section 28(3), you have the right to refer this response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by emailing info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K Casey', with a long, sweeping underline.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support