



9 November 2020

Beth H
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Tēnā koe Beth

Thank you for your email of 16 October 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

I request information held about Early Childhood Centres, that are claiming the funding and attesting to paying their teachers minimum rates which are currently:

Q1\$41,067\$45,491\$49,862
Q2\$41,067\$45,491\$49,862
Q3\$45,041\$45,491\$49,862
Q3+\$46,368\$46,832\$49,862

I suspect that many teachers are unaware of whether their centre is claiming the funding & their right to be paid these attestation rates.

Has this ever been audited?

Has the Ministry of Education crossed referenced the claimed hours of an employer, with the hours they paid staff?

If so how many times in the last year, since the rate change

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

As part of the funding claim audit process, early learning services that are teacher-led have salary information audited (including cross referencing hours claimed and hours paid) by the Ministry to ensure they are meeting their obligations on the attestation of certificated teachers' salaries. Services are required to maintain information to assist with verification. This will include copies of qualifications and current practising certificates, and records to confirm salary or wage levels.

Further information is available in the ECE Funding Handbook on our website at the following links:

- <https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/funding-and-data/funding-handbooks/ece-funding-handbook/chapter-11-record-keeping/>
- <https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/funding-and-data/funding-handbooks/ece-funding-handbook/completing-the-rs7-return/9-6-attestation-of-certificated-teachers-salaries/>

As the audit process for funding claims is retrospective, and teacher salary rates changed on 1 July 2020, no audits for this period have yet been completed.

All licensed services can be subject to a funding claim audit by the Ministry. However, some services are audited more frequently than others based on potential risks.

Any concerns regarding services' attestation of certificated teacher salaries can be raised through their local Ministry 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.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Schöllmann', written in a cursive style.

Dr Andrea Schöllmann
Deputy Secretary
Education System Policy