



29 September 2022

Scout Barbour-Evans
fyi-request-2xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxx.org.nz

Tēnā koe Scout

Thank you for your email of 2 September 2022 requesting the following:

1. *What percentage of New Zealand classrooms and ECE providers now have air purifiers with HEPA filters?*
2. *How did this percentage shift over the winter months, as ventilating with a window became more unreasonable in some areas?*
3. *What percentage of our schools and ECE providers have access to CO2 monitors to check the safety of their classrooms?*

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

In addressing part one of your request, as at 28 September 2022, we have provided state and state-integrated schools with more than 13,500 portable air cleaners (purifiers, with HEPA filters) to assist with their COVID-19 response. Given that we have an estimated 36,500 teaching spaces in the school property portfolio, the Ministry-only provision of air cleaners works out nominally at one air cleaner unit per every 2.7 teaching spaces.

The number of air cleaners used within each school and its learning and other spaces will vary. Each school is responsible for reviewing our [published guidance](#) and deciding how and where to utilise air cleaners, which they may source from the Ministry at no cost or purchase themselves.

The Ministry does not generally have a role in ownership or property management for early childhood education (ECE) services. ECE service providers are responsible for building-related issues, including meeting ventilation-related licensing criteria.

Outside of the nominal estimations provided above, and as we hold no information on any air cleaners that schools or ECE services may have purchased themselves we are therefore unable to provide a percentage of classroom and ECE services where air cleaners are in use. This part of your request is therefore refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and we have no grounds for believing that it is either held by or more closely related to the functions of another department or organisation subject to the Act.

In addressing part two of your request. Below is a table showing the provision of air cleaner units to schools per quarter:

Year	2022			
Quarter	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Total
Air Cleaners	413 units	7927 units	5425 units	13,765

In answer to part three of your request, the Ministry has actively worked with schools and ECE services to provide, or assist them in purchasing, quality CO₂ monitors as part of our COVID-19 response throughout the 2022 calendar year.

The Ministry can confirm that 2,466 state and state-integrated schools have been provided with one or more portable CO₂ monitors, with more than 12,000 units being distributed in total and with additional devices available on request. This is approximately 100% of schools, noting some schools have fixed CO₂ monitoring systems in place.

The Ministry has also provided funding for 1,770 ECE services in receipt of Targeted Funding for Disadvantage to purchase CO₂ monitors. As above, the Ministry does not hold information on CO₂ monitors purchased or utilised by ECE services and therefore cannot confirm the percentage of ECE services that have access to CO₂ monitors. This part of your request is therefore also refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes official information responses on our website. As such, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review the decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to infx@xxxxxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx.xx or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10-152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Sam Fowler
Head of Property
Te Puna Hanganga, Matihiko | Infrastructure and Digital