

15 March 2023

File Ref: OIA 46559/46568

Henry Tan

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Tēnā koe Henry

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your information requests dated 17 and 23 February 2023. You asked for the following information:

“Formal orders, if any, given to government personnel, public officials etc. for assimilation policies/strategies for the purpose of integrating Māori population with western culture (in particular, against children or youths).

Formal orders, if any, given to education authorities, teachers etc. alongside the Native School codes for persuading, enticing, coercing, or enforcing attendance of Māori children at these native schools.

Any notable records of actions of teachers or officials alike (can have names omitted) engaging in unethical behaviour prejudiced against Māori children within these Native Schools (such as for speaking te reo Māori instead of English).”

“I would like to know the total number of Māori students that attended the Native Schools from the period from inception until the transfer of the last remaining Māori exclusive school (1867-1969).”

Your request has been considered in accordance with the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Te Puni Kōkiri’s Knowledge Systems Team have carried out a search of our archive records and have not identified any information within scope of your requests. Accordingly, we are refusing your requests under sections 18(e) and 18(g) of the Act as despite reasonable efforts, we have been unable to find the information you requested and we do not have any grounds for believing it would be held by another agency.

In our efforts to assist you we liaised with the Ministry of Education and they have not been able to provide any insight on your request. The Ministry did suggest that you may wish to approach Archives New Zealand as their historical records are searchable to members of the public.



Te Puni Kōkiri

MINISTRY OF MĀORI DEVELOPMENT

I understand that local councils may also hold information on attendance records for their respective regions, which you will also be able to locate by searching the Archives New Zealand collection.

Information on searching Archives New Zealand collections is available on their website at: <https://collections.archives.govt.nz/web/arena/how-to-search-collections-%7C-me-p%C4%93hea-te-rapu#/>

I trust my response satisfies your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Puni Kōkiri publishes some of its OIA responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact us at uia@tpk.govt.nz.

Ngā mihi

Terina Cowan

Hautū, Te Puni Tautoko Whakahaere | Deputy Secretary, Organisational Support