



1/03/2024

Susan Bates

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Tēnā koe Susan

**OIA: 1322307 – CEGAP Members and Criteria**

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2024 to the Ministry of Education (the Ministry) requesting the following information regarding the recent CEGAP Panel created as part of the Regulations Review in Early Childhood Education:

1. *How many responses did the Ministry receive when it called for participants?*
2. *Who were those respondents (or at least the organisations they represented)?*
3. *What was the criteria for selecting those who were ultimately appointed?*

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

To be considered for centre design, environmental factors and group size advisory panel (CEGAP) participation, respondents were required to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) form via the Ministry website. In total, the Ministry received 33 responses to its call for CEGAP participants.

Regarding **question two** of your request, the Ministry considers there to be an expectation that the identities of those who submitted EOI forms for CEGAP participation be kept confidential. This is to maintain the privacy of individuals and to ensure that respondents to future Ministry advisory groups are not disincentivised by the risk of their identities being publicised if they are unsuccessful. Sharing the names of respondents' organisations may enable the identity of those respondents to be deduced, particularly where those organisations have limited membership. I am therefore withholding the information for this part of your request under section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest. You may be aware that the names and organisations of successful respondents are published on the Ministry's website at the following link: <https://www.education.govt.nz/early-childhood/licensing-and-regulations/the-regulatory-framework-for-ecce/early-learning-regulatory-review/>.

Regarding **question three** of your request, the Ministry considered a range of factors when determining CEGAP appointments. These were noted in the CEGAP EOI form and are provided below:



- Evidence and examples of relevant expertise, including technical, educational, academic, and cultural expertise. Preference was given to respondents with expertise across multiple strands, or an exceptionally high level of expertise in a single strand.
- Diverse sector representation, including current and former teachers, centre managers and owners, academics, researchers, and relevant industry experts.
- Willingness to contribute towards evidence-informed recommendations that support the development of guidance for early childhood services.

Factors were not considered in isolation, but alongside the qualities of other respondents to facilitate a diverse range of expertise and experiences on CEGAP.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld. I do not consider the public interest considerations favouring the release of this information are sufficient to outweigh the need to withhold it at this time.

Please note, we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

I hope the above information is of use to you. Thank you again for your email. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my decision on your request, in accordance with section 28 of the Act. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



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