



MP for Epsom

Deputy Prime Minister (from 31 May 2025)

Minister for Regulation

Associate Minister of Education (Partnership Schools)

Associate Minister of Finance

Associate Minister of Health (Pharmac)

Associate Minister of Justice (Treaty Principles Bill)

31 JUL 2024

Michael Riconosciuto  
[fyi-request-26790-2b444464@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26790-2b444464@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: DSOIA129

Dear Michael

Thank you for your email of 14 May 2024 requesting the following information:

*I request the advice the Minister has received that demonstrates how charter schools lift educational outcomes, in a New Zealand context.*

*Where any advice was received as email correspondence, I would be happy for this information to be provided as a list, by title and date.*

I apologise for the delayed response, which was due to an administrative error on behalf of the Ministry of Education (the Ministry).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

## The Ministry

1. The charter schools' model is still in development and charter schools are yet to open. Therefore, under the current charter school model, no advice has been received from the Ministry that demonstrates how the current model lifts educational outcomes, in a New Zealand context. The Ministry has, however, provided me with advice relating to the impact of the previous partnership school model and evidence of charter school models from other jurisdictions.
2. Research papers on partnerships schools, introduced under the previous model, can be found at the following weblinks:
  - <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/schooling/multi-year-evaluation-of-partnership-schools-kura-hourua-policy>
  - <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/publications/schooling/evaluation-of-partnership-schools-kura-hourua-policy>
3. The **Document Table One**, below this response, lists the advice my office received, which we in good faith, consider to be in scope of your requests as it references educational outcomes.
4. The first document was received on 27 November 2023 "Advice on reintroduction of the partnership schools' model and converting State schools to partnership schools".
5. Document one is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is available at the following weblink: [1319217-Advice-on-reintroduction-of-the-partnership-schools-model Redacted.pdf \(education.govt.nz\)](#).

Please note that the document was released in part with the following information withheld:

- Mobile numbers of Ministry employees are withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Budget information has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protects the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials, as this information is still under active consideration and informs future advice to the Minister.

6. Document two is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is available at the following weblink: [1319868-Lessons-Learnt-and-International-Evidence-Redacted.pdf \(education.govt.nz\)](https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/1319868-Lessons-Learnt-and-International-Evidence-Redacted.pdf)

Please note that the document was released in part with the following information withheld:

- The names, contact details and personal information of former and non-Ministry employees, as well as mobile numbers of Ministry employees have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act, to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by departments.
- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, to avoid unreasonable prejudice to the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information.
- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
- Financial figures are withheld under section 9(2)(j) of the Act, to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations (including commercial and industrial negotiations).
- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the Act. To protect the supply of confidential information by a third party where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information of the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

7. Document three is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is available at the following weblink: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/Advice-Seen-by-our-Ministers/2024/April-2024/RIS-A-new-framework-for-charter-schools-Redacted.pdf>

Please note that the document was released in part with the following information withheld:

- Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.
  - Some information has been withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act, to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials, as the advice is still under active consideration and informs future advice to the Minister.
8. Document four is refused under section 18(d) of the Act as the information is available at the following weblink: <https://assets.education.govt.nz/public/Documents/our-work/information-releases/Advice-Seen-by-our-Ministers/December-2023/BN-1320405-For-Proactive-Release-Lessons-Learnt-from-Academy-Schools-i-Redacted.pdf>
- Please note that the document was released in part with some information withheld under section 6(b)(i) of the Act, as the making available of this information would be likely to prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the government of another country, or any agency of such government.

I have also had conversations with people involved internationally and locally with charter schools (or formerly partnership schools) who believe this publicly funded schooling choice should be made available for children as it improves educational outcomes.

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](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Kind regards



Hon David Seymour  
**Associate Minister of Education**

**Document Table One:** Advice received from Ministry of Education

#	Date	METIS #	Title	Decision on release
1	27 November 2023	1319217	Advice: Advice on reintroduction of the partnership schools' model and converting State schools to partnership schools	Refused under Section 18(d) of the Act as the document is publicly available.
2	11 December 2023	1319868	Briefing Note: Lessons Learnt and International Evidence on Partnership Schools	Refused under Section 18(d) of the Act as the document is publicly available.
3	20 March 2024	N/A	Regulatory Impact Statement: Reinstating a New Zealand model of charter schools	Refused under Section 18(d) of the Act as the document is publicly available.
4	22 December 2023	1320405	Briefing Note: Lessons learnt from Academy Schools in England	Refused under Section 18(d) of the Act as the document is publicly available.