



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)

8 JUL 2024

Andrew Riddell
fyi-request-27204-57f5f118@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: DSOIA157

Dear Andrew

Thank you for your email of 10 June 2024 requesting the following information:

On 6 June you released a statement about a review of regulations applying to early childhood centres.

It included the following quote from yourself:

"We have heard reports from centres around the country where teachers and carers are spending their time dealing with regulators and writing reports and plans on absurd things like the risk of apples falling from a tree in the playground, the first aid certificate being hung on the right-hand side of the doorframe instead of above it, or a train driver honking the train horn at the children as the train drives past every morning to the delight of the children but the chagrin of noise pollution police. I wish these examples were made up, but they are real."

- 1. Please provide copies of all reports you received giving these examples, including all assessments and/or comments on these examples by either staff at your office or in the Ministry of Regulation.*

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

For clarity, my office has not received any copies of official reports on the examples used in the Press Release. Nor have we made any assessments and/or comments on these examples. Also, I can confirm no reports on the examples have been made directly to myself in my capacity as the Minister for Regulation.

Therefore, your request for copies of reports and assessments and/or comments on the examples by my office is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

My office has however received email correspondence from two Early Learning Centres, which informed the Press Release Examples.

The document table below this letter provides a list of the emails we received, along with my decision on release. There are four documents in total which consist of two emails and two email attachments.

The documents are being released to you in part as per the attached **Appendix A**, with the following information withheld:

- The names and contact details of the Early Learning providers and staff withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons.
- The names of the Early Learning Centres and one Centre logo withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act, to avoid unreasonable prejudice to the commercial position of another party.

Please note parts of Document one, within Appendix A, has been removed as out of scope of your request.

As required under section 9(1) of the Act, I have considered the public interest in releasing the information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii). 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.

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.

Kind regards



Hon David Seymour
Associate Minister of Education

Appendix A Document Table

#	Date	From	To	Subject	Decision on release
1	21 Feb 2024	[Name withheld, Early Learning Provider]	Anya Zohrab	RE: Link	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act or has been removed as out of scope.
2	13 Mar 2024	[Name withheld. Early Learning Provider]	Anya Zohrab	Apple Tree / Train Noise	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.
2a				Email Attachment: Hazard Chart	Release in part. Information has been withheld under section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.
2b				Email Attachment: [Centre Name withheld Risk Register]	Release in part. Information has been withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(b)(ii) of the Act.