



Charter School Agency

9/09/2024

Kitty

fyi-request-28074-7c5d8099@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Kitty

OIA: 1334374 – Charter school applications and funding information

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2024 to the Charter Schools Agency (the CSA) requesting the following information:

1. *I am requesting a current list of charter school applications, including those from new providers and existing state schools seeking conversion.*
2. *Please also provide information about:*
 - a) *the number of funded spaces available*
 - b) *the maximum amount of funding which is available per space*
 - c) *what is entailed in the first, second, and any further phases of the assessment which charter school applicants go through, such as the criteria used to make a determination about the suitability of a charter school application vs an unsuitable application.*

Your request has been numbered for the purposes of responding and considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Confidentiality for applicants is imperative to the independence and credibility of the charter school selection process at this early stage. While 78 applications were received, only a limited number will progress to Stage Two of the selection process.

I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(a) of the Act, since, by virtue of section 9(2)(ba)(ii) of the Act, there is good reason to withhold the information 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.

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

Once the selection process is complete and decisions have been made at the end of Stage Two, the CSA will consider proactively releasing this information. We expect that this will be in October this year. I consider that the public interest will be met by the proactive release of information in

due course. In addition, applicants that are successful in progressing to Stage Two of the selection process will be required to consult their community.

In response to **part 2a** of your request, funding provided by Budget 2024 will allow 15 new charter schools and the conversion of 35 state schools to charter schools in 2025 and 2026, depending on demand and suitability.

Funding will be provided based on per-student formulae. A copy of the charter schools funding model is available on the CSA website at: <https://www.charterschools.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/20240812-CSA-funding-factsheet.pdf>.

The CSA is conducting a two-stage application process to select sponsors. Stage One will establish the suitability of potential sponsors and the viability of their intentions, and Stage Two will entail a detailed evaluation of plans to establish and operate a school where children are safe, attending and achieving. Information about the first and second phases of the application process, along with the assessment criteria for applicants, is available on the CSA website at: <https://www.charterschools.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Charter-Schools-Kura-Hourua-Sponsor-Application-Release-110724.pdf>.

I am therefore refusing **parts 2b and 2c** of your request under section 18(d) of the Act, as the information is publicly available.

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 or to Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Jane Lee', written in a cursive style.

Jane Lee
Chief Executive
Charter Schools Agency