



20 FEB 2017

L Bailey

[fyi-request-5242-17b6acfc@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5242-17b6acfc@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear L Bailey

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2017 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *Can you please provide me copies of all applications, emails, and documentation relating to HCN funding for Awatapu College, Palmerston North from 2015 until 2017.*

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

The High and Complex Needs (HCN) Interagency Strategy is a joint initiative of the Ministries of Health, Education, and Social Development (through its service line Child, Youth and Family). It was developed to provide a coordinated response to meeting the needs of children and young people with high and complex needs, who are involved with two or more government agencies.

HCN funding is available for short-term, intensive interventions aimed at addressing the severe and current needs of the most challenging children or young people. For every child or young person supported by HCN funding, there will be an interagency team of professionals, family and whānau working together on one plan to improve their wellbeing. Further information about the HCN Interagency Strategy and the HCN funding process can be found at the following link: <http://www.hcn.govt.nz/>

With regards to your particular request, we do not hold any applications, emails or documentation relating to "HCN funding for Awatapu College Palmerston North." This is because, as referenced above, HCN funding is attached to individual students and applications for funding are made by the Ministry of Education to support an individual as opposed to a particular school. I am therefore refusing your request under section 18(e) of the Act as the information you have requested does not exist.

While we hold information relating to HCN funding for individual students attending Awatapu College Palmerston North over the period of your request, any documentation relating to HCN funding is directly related to a specific student and much of this information would likely be withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the very strong privacy interests of the individual students concerned.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to ask an Ombudsman to review this response. 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.

Yours sincerely



Susan Howan  
**Deputy Secretary (Acting)**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**