

13 JUN 2017

Christine  
[fyi-request-5746-549b0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-5746-549b0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Christine

On 18 April 2017, you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, the following information:

- *The number of Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) positions in West Auckland and the number of those currently filled by Social Workers. The average length of time between SWiS, for the resignation, re-advertisement, recruitment and employment of a new Social Worker into a SWiS role. The Schools in West Auckland who currently have a SWiS in post.*

As you may be aware, Social Workers in Schools (SWiS) is a school-based community social work service. SWiS provides early assistance and intervention to children and their families when social or family circumstances are causing a child to struggle with education, health or social development. The aim is to see safe, healthy and socialised children with a strong sense of identity, who are fully engaged in school.

To receive SWiS services, children and families can self-refer as well as be referred by the school, community or government agencies. Referrals need the consent of the family, as the service can only be successful with the family's willing participation and engagement. SWiS social workers are employed by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) social service providers. They work in partnership with school staff as part of the school community. A social worker will work in one school, or a group of schools, based on the geographical spread of schools and school roll size in the region. SWiS social workers are based in low decile schools with year 1-8 students. A SWiS may also be allocated to another school outside of the West Auckland area.

There are currently 15 full time equivalent SWiS allocated across West Auckland assigned to the following schools:

- Birdwood School
- Bruce McLaren Intermediate
- Colwill School
- Don Buck School
- Fruitvale Road School
- Glendene School
- Glen Eden School
- Henderson Intermediate
- Henderson School
- Henderson North School
- Henderson South School
- Holy Cross Catholic School
- Kelston Intermediate
- Kelston School
- Lincoln Heights School
- Massey Primary School
- New Lynn School
- Pomaria Road School
- Prospect School
- Ranui School
- Royal Road School
- St Leonards Road School
- Sunnyvale School
- Swanson School
- Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Hoani Waititi
- Waitakere S D A School
- West Harbour School

The Ministry is unable to provide you with the number of SWiS positions in West Auckland or the average length of time taken to fill a position as the vacancies and Human Resources for these social workers are managed by non-governmental organisations. As such, I am refusing your request for this information under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act as the information you have requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:


- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki's website. Your personal details will be deleted and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OT\\_Requests@mvcot.govt.nz](mailto:OT_Requests@mvcot.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response concerning SWiS, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Pepi Batsos  
**General Manager, Organisational Support**