



David Whyte
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Dear David

Thank you for your 27 November 2017 request to the Ministry of Education for the following information:

I am after a metric around non-scheduled secondary school teacher days off. That is the number of:

- Sick days
- Bereavement Leave
- Leave without pay
- Holiday days (obviously excluding the days where school is not formally teaching) and any other category where teachers are unexpectedly not available to teach

I am wanting to benchmark a secondary school against this data. So the data I am after is across a school year, for the last complete school year that this data is available. The data to be useful is requested to be in one of the following forms:

The average of these days across all NZ secondary schools total number of days taken across all schools (and if this is provided, the number of schools in NZ will also need to be provided. The average of the above days per 100 teachers (or per 10, or per 1000, whatever metric may be on file).

As you can see, the exact format the data comes in, is less of a concern, than how the data can be compared to a current school.

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

The Ministry does not hold aggregated data of teacher sick days, bereavement leave, leave without pay and holiday days.

For this reason, we are refusing your request in full under section 18(g) of the Act as the information requested is not held by the department or Minister of the Crown or organisation and the person dealing with the request has no grounds for believing that the information is either held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority; or connected more closely with the functions of another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation or of a local authority.

Although we could extract the raw data to either aggregate or provide to you to aggregate, there is a significant amount of data, 1.2 million sick leave transactions for the last year, for example, which is held against each teacher rather than by school. Aggregating this data, or anonymising the data to protect teachers' private details would require a significant amount of time and resource. Consequently, we would likely refuse a request for the raw data.

If you would like to discuss your request further to determine if the Ministry does hold any information that could be of use to you, please feel free to contact the Ministry's Chief Payroll Advisor, John Warner on 04 463 2821 or John.Warner@education.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to refer this response to an Ombudsman. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely



Kim Shannon
Head of Education Infrastructure Service