



Dave Lane

[fyi-request-9470-d44a58c2@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-9470-d44a58c2@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Dave

Thank you for your email of 30 January 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *Which role in the Ministry is responsible for making "free" licenses for Microsoft Office 365 available to students at the high school level.*

I note you made a further request under the Act on 13 February 2019. The Ministry is considering that request separately and will provide a response in due course.

The decision about which software products are used at high school, and whether the school provides any software licenses to students is made by the school not the Ministry of Education.

Microsoft, like many other software vendors used by New Zealand schools, provide heavily discounted or free software licenses for students globally.

As licensed Microsoft products are also used extensively at schools by school staff for both administrative and learning purposes, the Ministry does negotiate a national software agreement with Microsoft that covers the use of various server software products (e.g. email, file storage), desktop operating systems and office productivity tools. A side benefit of this agreement is that it also extends "free" licensing to Office 365 to students enrolled at the school, which some schools choose to take advantage of.

Stuart Wakefield, Chief Digital Officer, at the Ministry is responsible for negotiating technology supply agreements for schools, including the Microsoft schools agreement. There is further information about this agreement here:

<https://education.govt.nz/school/running-a-school/technology-in-schools/software/microsoft/>

I hope this information is helpful for you. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. 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



Zoe Griffiths  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Business Enablement and Support**